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Some of the thousands of marchers in yesterday's Talkarm-Netanya walk. (Assaf Shilo / Israel Sun)

## Thousands march 16 kilometers to protest government policy

MORE than 7,000 right-wing demonstrators participated yesterday in a protest march from Tulkarm to Netanya against government policy.

The march - across the narrowest part of the country - was meant by the organizers to illustrate the country's vulnerability if the government cedes control of the territories to the Palestinians.

The 16-km march and rally were organized by the Likud, National Religious Party, Tsomet and Moledet, whose leaders spoke at the demonstration, together with right-wing and religious organizations.

Likud chairman Benjamin Netanyahu called on the demonstrators to restrain themselves, emphasizing that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is "not a traitor but he is mistaken," and it must be reiterated that "the distance from the Green Line to Netanya beach is a mere eight minutes' car drive."

"I know you are full of rage and frustration, but I want you, nonetheless, to suppress that rage. We are dealing with political rivals, not with enemies. We are of one and the same nation! We have a joint goal to ensure the nation of Israel in its country, and we shall fight for this goal together. And we will achieve it," Netanyahu said.

Moledet leader Rehavam Ze'evi said the alternative [to this government's policy] "is not to negotiate with a murderer and not as long as there is terrorism instead of peace. If the Palestinians insist on making terrorism, let them do it in the Arab states, where they will go. In Israel, only Jews will remain."

"This is a popular demonstration of growing public sentiment against continuation of a false peace with the Palestinians," said Daniel Diker of Jerusalem, who helped organize the march.

"Palestinian autonomy, yes," said Diker, who immigrated from Boston five years ago. "But a Palestinian state that would be able to choke off Israel at its very narrowest point? Absolutely not."

The demonstrators stopped at the Beit Lid Junction for a memorial service to the 21 Israelis killed in the suicide bombing attack in January there.

Police arrested six former members of Kahane Chai who wore yellow T-shirts with Meir Kahane's image on them and tried to sell books about Baruch Goldstein. One of them had a Kach flag. They were questioned by the Netanya police last night.

## China rebuffs US on Iran nuclear deal

CHINA ignored US Secretary of State Warren Christopher's warning and insisted yesterday it would proceed with a nuclear deal with Iran.

China's Foreign Minister Qian Qichen said no international law prohibits cooperation for the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

"We respect the views of the United States," Qian said at the start of a meeting with Christopher in New York, "but what we are doing is consistent with international practice."

The disagreement surfaced at yesterday's opening of the United Nations conference on the future of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). The US is pressing China to support indefinite extension.

Christopher did not disguise his strong feeling about the potential deal between China and Iran, which specifies construction of two 300-megawatt water reactors and transfer of associated Chinese technology.

"No nation ought to go forward with nuclear cooperation with Iran," Christopher said at a joint news conference. "It's too dangerous to do so."

He called Iran the most ardent opponent of peace in the Middle East and said it projects terror worldwide.

HILLEL KUTTLER and news agencies

Beijing contends it is pursuing only "normal cooperation ... in peaceful areas" with Iran and denies any wrongful trade in nuclear technology.

China previously has sold Iran a small research reactor and an electromagnetic isotope separation machine that could be converted to enrich a small amount of uranium for research.

The Post quoted US officials as saying Chinese technicians also have given Iran advice on uranium mining and have discussed providing technology to enable Iran to produce its own nuclear reactor fuel.

But the newspaper said US officials fear Iran could easily obtain such fuel for power-generating reactors from other countries and that - given its huge oil re-

(Continued on Page 2)

## NPT conference opens at UN

DELEGATES from 178 nations convened yesterday at the United Nations to launch a conference on renewing the 1970 nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), meeting to reach what US Secretary of State Warren Christopher called "a decision with the most far-reaching consequences for their national security and for world peace."

UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali was expected to open the month-long conference with a call for total nuclear disarmament.

"The most safe, sure and swift way to deal with the threat of nuclear arms is to do away with them in every regard," Boutros-Ghali said according to an advance copy of his prepared remarks. "This should be our vision of the future. No more testing. No more production. No more sales or transfers. Reduction and destruction of all nuclear weapons and the means to make them should be humanity's great common cause."

Israel, which is an observer at the conference, reiterated its position that it cannot support a regional nuclear-free zone or sign the NPT so long as it is not at peace with its neighbors, UN Ambassador Gad Ya'acobi told Israel Radio.

"We are the only state directly threatened in the Middle East by other states - like Iran, Iraq and

(Continued on Page 2)

## PA condemns Hebron killings of three Hamas 'martyrs'

Gaza court sentences Hamas TNT smuggler to 7 years

PA Planning Minister Nabil Shaath yesterday condemned Sunday's killing of three Hamas terrorists by Israeli security forces.

"I express sorrow at the killing of three Palestinian martyrs in Hebron," Shaath said in a statement.

"No one can but condemn liquidating a Palestinian human being in cold blood," he said. "I condemn this strongly and we call for peace and security for both sides."

The body of one of the three Hamas terrorists killed Sunday in the gun battle with a Border Police unit in Hebron was positively identified yesterday by his father.

A neighbor said Sunday that the brothers of Jihad Golmi, 22, examined the body and found it was not his. However, Golmi's father was taken to the Abu Kabir Forensic Institute, where he positively identified the body of his son.

Golmi was wanted by the security forces for a year and a half for involvement in the killing of six Israelis. The IDF insisted after the incident that Golmi was among the dead terrorists.

In Gaza, the PA's Gaza security court yesterday sentenced a Hamas activist to seven years in prison for obtaining and helping to smuggle the explosives caught in a truck near Tel Sheva on March 20, PA Attorney-General Khaled Qidre said.

Mohammed Samri, 35, was arrested on March 25. According to Qidre, he is the cousin of the Gaza man, Riyad Samri, 42, caught driving the explosives-laden truck.

Apparently, Samri smuggled the explosives out of the Gaza Strip in a car and later loaded the bombs onto the truck in Israel.

Qidre said a key Islamic Jihad figure, Sheikh Abdallah Shami, was still in detention, but that no trial date had been set for him.

A meeting late Sunday between representatives from Hamas and the PA ended without results, said a Palestinian official.

The Hamas negotiator, Said Abu Musameh, told Palestinian Housing Minister Zakaria Agha that the group's military wing, Izzadin Kassam, would refuse to surrender its arms, despite a May 11 deadline set by Arafat.

"There was understanding and readiness from all sides to work for the interests of the Palestinian people," Agha said when asked whether Hamas had responded to calls to halt armed attacks.

Hamas leader Sayed Abu Musameh told Reuters: "Yesterday's meeting was within the framework of cooling tensions. It is wrong to boycott."

Arafat adviser Ahmed Tibi arrived in Gaza last night for talks with Arafat.

Meanwhile, OC Central Command Brig.-Gen. Ilan Biran said Hamas is likely to carry out attacks on Israelis in retaliation for the Hebron killings.

"Forces have been intensified, soldiers are being briefed and we ask people not to hitchhike and definitely to close their [car] windows and be on full alert," Biran told Israel Radio.

However, Biran said Israelis should not let fear of an attack spoil Pessah.

Jews pray in Hebron, Page 2

## IDF endorses bill to lower reserve duty for combat soldiers

DEPUTY Chief of the General Staff Maj.-Gen. Matan Vilna'i accepted on behalf of the IDF a comprehensive plan that will, if passed as law, ease the burden on reserve soldiers serving in combat units.

The plan, initiated by Labor MK Ra'anan Cohen, would require them to serve 23 or 24 days a year, compared with 33 currently.

Cohen and Maj.-Gen. (res.) Moshe Nativ, who had conducted a lengthy report on reserve-service burden and IDF needs, met with Vilna'i on Friday and won his approval for the law proposal, that aspires to rectify what Cohen previously called "an unequal and unfair burden-sharing of reserve duty between combat and non-combat soldiers and officers."

According to the proposal, combat reservists will have their training days limited to 5 or 6 per year.

Furthermore, the IDF will train non-combat soldiers to serve in routine security service once they are discharged and enter the reserve pool.

Thus, the number of available soldiers will increase and the burden alleviated.

The army will also re-examine the desirable time interval between two reserve-service terms, in an effort to lengthen the interval and avoid calling soldiers again within a few months after a previous call-up.

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# Report: Israel tipped off US to Iran's nuclear program

THOMAS LIPPMAN  
WASHINGTON

THE crescendo of alarm that has made Iran one of the Clinton administration's top foreign policy concerns began last fall when Israel delivered information showing that Iran was actively seeking the capability to make nuclear fuel that could be used in a crude explosive device, according to US officials.

Israel said, and the CIA confirmed, that Iran was shopping extensively in Germany and Switzerland for equipment for a facility to enrich uranium using gas centrifuges.

It is not clear how much of the equipment Iran has obtained, and in any case Tehran is still far from being able to build a bomb.

But the quest for centrifuge equipment marks a new intensity in Iran's effort to acquire nuclear technology, the officials said.

"Until fairly recently there wasn't a lot of evidence that [Iran's nuclear program] was beyond a basic stage, but now it is beyond a basic stage," one senior US official said.

According to administration officials and sources on Capitol Hill, the Israeli information about nuclear technology was the catalyst for redoubled US efforts to counter Iran. US concern grew further in January when a Russian-Iranian deal to build a two-reactor atomic power plant in Iran raised the prospect that Moscow would train a new generation of Iranian nuclear engineers and greatly enhance that country's ability to process and handle nuclear materials.

Concern about Iran's troubling potential is hardly new in Washington. Fear of Iran

prompted the US to give indirect support to Iraq during Iran-Iraq War, and Washington has long branded Iran a troublemaker that threatens Israel and sponsors terrorism.

"Iran today is in a category all its own," Secretary of State Warren Christopher said in an April 4 speech. "No other nation employs terror more systematically as an instrument of national policy - to destroy the peace process; to intimidate its neighbors; and to eliminate its political opponents."

"Iran's efforts to acquire nuclear weapons also pose enormous dangers," he said. "Every responsible member of the world community has an interest in seeing those efforts fail. There is no room for complacency. Remember Iraq," he said, referring to the shock caused by the discovery - after the 1991 Gulf war - of Iraq's extensive network of nuclear-weapons related facilities.

New York Senator Alfonse D'Amato introduced legislation that would ban US oil companies from purchasing Iranian oil and would virtually shut US markets to any foreign company that trades with Iran. The administration has not endorsed that legislation but may try to match it by executive order.

After the Israeli intelligence information, additional data came last November, when Prime Minister Rabin raised the issue with

Clinton during a trip to Washington, administration officials said.

Israel now regards Iran as the greatest long-term threat to its security, though many analysts in Washington had regarded public Israeli warnings about a nuclear threat from Iran as mostly claptrap. Israel was seen as trying to divert attention from Egyptian demands that Israel endorse the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

But the level of concern was raised when the CIA confirmed Israel's report that Iran was "in the process of securing centrifuge technology that would make [uranium] enrichment possible," a senior US official said. That information prompted Christopher to warn in a January 20 speech that Iran had undertaken a "crash effort" to develop nuclear weapons.

US concerns also were heightened when, in early January, Russian Atomic Energy Minister Viktor Mikhailov went to Iran and signed an agreement to build a two-unit nuclear power plant at Bushehr and to provide training for Iranian nuclear scientists and technicians.

This agreement is legal under international law and would have no direct military application. But the prospect of Russian training of Iranian nuclear engineers stirred furious US opposition. According to officials here, Iran, weakened by a post-revolution "brain drain," is believed to have just a few hundred nuclear engineers and technicians. That compares with about 7,500 in Iraq.

(The Washington Post)



Border Police scuffle with Palestinian women in Ramallah who were illegally marching yesterday to press for the release of Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails. (Khaled Zighary)

## Machpela Cave reserved for Jews for 2 days

UNDER heavy police guard, hundreds of Jews prayed yesterday at the Machpela Cave in Hebron.

It was the first time Jews were exclusively permitted at the site for the day since the new security procedures were drafted, following the commission of inquiry into the Hebron massacre of February 1994.

During Ramadan, which ended several weeks ago, the site was

closed to Jews during selected days.

Yesterday, security was especially tight at the site because of the killing of three Hamas terrorists in Hebron during a gun battle Sunday with a Border Police unit.

Leaders of the Jewish settlement in Hebron expressed satisfaction that hundreds of worshippers arrived at the site, which will

be open again to Jews only today. Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron praised the decision to open the entire site to Jews during Pesach.

Meanwhile, Hebron residents were still under curfew yesterday for the second day.

Two explosive devices were discovered yesterday by security forces during searches in a Hebron home. They were detonated by a sapper.

## Military Police probing sex-tape claim

ALON PINKAS and news agencies

THE Military Police is investigating a charge made by a woman soldier that she was a victim of a bet between an officer and a soldier on whether the soldier could have sex with her, videotape the act and then make the tape available to other soldiers in an ordnance base where all three were serving.

The woman, who has already completed her service, told both Israel Radio and Army Radio

that she found out about the bet only after a year of enduring derision and sexual remarks by other soldiers. One soldier, she said, finally presented her with the tape.

"Soldiers and officers would make comments about my breasts as if they had seen me naked," the soldier, who requested anonymity, told Army Radio.

She also complained that military police investigators were treating her as if she is the offender, rather than the victim.

She said she found out that an officer challenged her boyfriend to record the intercourse without her knowledge. The stakes were a dinner at a restaurant.

Military police will now pursue a sexual harassment case and possibly indict the officer for inappropriate behavior.

MK Naomi Chazan said the incident reflected widespread sexual harassment in the army. "We know that there is about one complaint filed for every five incidents that occur," she said.

Brig-Gen. Israela Oron, who heads the Women's Corps, said female draftees are encouraged to file complaints if they are sexually harassed.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Bank robber nabbed by angry victims

A bank robber was captured yesterday afternoon by angry clients and passersby, after he held up tellers with a toy pistol in Jaffa.

The 25-year-old man, a known criminal and resident of Hod Hasharon, was chased and caught by customers of the First International Bank. Bystanders helped them hold the thief until police arrived.

The suspect will appear for a remand hearing in Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court this morning.

#### Women released after stealing mail

A 42-year-old Tel Aviv woman who allegedly stole and ate her neighbors' mail told a Magistrate's Court judge yesterday she would not stop poking her hands into mail boxes. Even so, Judge Gila Neufeld released her on NIS 4,000 bail.

The court heard that the woman was caught on several occasions stealing from mail boxes at the apartment block where she lived. Tolerant neighbors, believing she was mentally disturbed, warned her to stop the thefts. Police too also cautioned her, but to no avail.

She was arrested after she was caught red-handed stealing her neighbor's letters. When confronted, the woman simply ate the stolen goods and threatened to continue stealing the mail.

#### French convoy brings aid to Palestinians

A French "Convoy for Peace" rolled into Gaza yesterday, bringing mobile dental clinics and 100 tons of medical and sports equipment worth \$2 million to the Palestinian Authority.

EquiLibre, a humanitarian association set up in 1984 by private French citizens and non-governmental institutions, sent the seven-truck convoy as a token of support for Palestinians.

PA Housing Minister Zuhair al-Agha said the clinics brought in by the convoy via Egypt would serve 300,000 pupils in Gaza and West Bank schools for three months. (Reuters)

#### Police investigating Avruskhi for drugs

Yona Avruskhi, who killed Emil Grunzweig during a Peace Now demonstration in 1983, is being investigated by the Jerusalem police on suspicion of dealing in drugs.

Avruskhi, who received his first furlough on Friday since being imprisoned, was arrested on Saturday night. No drugs were found on him, and the investigation has not turned up anything. Avruskhi was sent back to prison. (Reuters)

#### Writers conference off to stormy start

A shouting match broke out during a speech by Science and Arts Minister Shulamit Aloni last night at the opening ceremony for the writers conference in Tel Aviv. The dispute arose when Aloni expressed support for the inclusion of non-Hebrew Israeli Arab writers in the association of Hebrew authors. Part of the audience expressed opposition to the idea, saying that other types of writers should have their own associations. Aloni responded that she hoped the entire Israeli population would be accepted into the association, regardless of religion or nationality. (Reuters)

#### Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the 9 of spades, A of hearts, 10 of diamonds, and 7 of clubs.

#### To Devorah Berlinger

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## Ministry: Be wary of Jordanian dental care

JUDY SIEGEL

COMMENTING on the "waves" of Israelis who have in recent months gone to Jordan for cheap dental treatment, the Health Ministry said yesterday that it is neither authorized nor able to prevent people from seeking dental treatment in a foreign country, or to recommend such treatment.

"Anyone who goes for treatment in a foreign country does so on his own responsibility," the ministry said.

According to tour agents and other sources, "hundreds" of local residents have made trips to Amman for dental care. A filling costs about 10 Jordanian dinars (NIS 44) and root canal 25 dinars (NIS 110), compared with NIS 120 and NIS 220 respectively in Israel. A tooth extraction is 8 dinars (NIS 34) compared with NIS 90 here.

However, it is impossible to know how careful Jordanian dentists are in sterilizing their equipment to ensure that hepatitis B and AIDS cannot be transmitted from patient to patient or from doctor to patient. The general level of Jordanian dentistry is regarded here as being less advanced than Israeli dentistry.

(Continued from Page 1)

Libya - and therefore we are not able to commit to establishment of a zone demilitarized of nuclear weapons before achieving a comprehensive peace agreement," Ya'acobi said. "And therefore we are not able to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty."

Egypt reiterated on Sunday its opposition to the NPT's indefinite renewal unless Jerusalem signs.

The general debate is to begin today. At issue is whether the agreement, designed to prevent the spread of nuclear arms, would be extended indefinitely and unconditionally, as sought by at least four of the five acknowledged nuclear powers - the US, Russia, Britain, China and France - or renewed for one or more fixed periods.

A simple majority of 90 votes will seal the fate of the extension of the treaty.

"In legal terms, a majority is enough," said Pasi Patokallio,

(Continued from Page 1)

serves - it has little need for nuclear energy.

Meanwhile, Russia's Ambassador to Iran said yesterday his country's nuclear contracts with Tehran will not be altered by US pressure.

## Jordan strains under flood of tourists

MADABA, Jordan (Reuters) - Jordan's small tourism industry is creaking under a boom fueled by the kingdom's October peace treaty with Israel.

Jordan's 150 tourist buses, owned by the country's sole agency, are overwhelmed by foreign and Israeli tourists. The use of commercial buses to ease the strain has created shortages in public transport, triggering outcries from Jordanians still hostile to Israel.

Hotels have been running near capacity since January, tour operators face a shortage of multi-language guides and ancient sites lack infrastructure to handle the flood of visitors.

"All of this because the country never expected to be running at 100 percent," said Khalil Adwan of Jordan's new Tourism Board, a non-governmental agency promoting the kingdom abroad.

"If you take the first 90 days of 1995 and the same period in 1994,

foreign tourism went up by 60%, excluding Israeli tourists," he told Reuters.

Despite the headaches, tourism has produced the quickest economic benefits from peace. It is the only sector on Amman's stock market to show significant gains since the treaty, with investors rushing into hotel projects.

More than 500 Israeli tourists have entered Jordan each day since the borders opened in November.

"Since peace and the opening of borders, we are under severe pressure," said Nabil Hamarneh, supervising a famous Byzantine church in Madaba, 40 km from Amman.

Some 1,500 people visit the church each day to see its sixth century mosaic floor map of the Holy Land, up from 500 before. Traffic at nearby Mount Nebo, burial site of Moses, has doubled. Souvenir shops report brisk business.

## Two killed in car crash

TWO Palestinian women were killed yesterday evening in a head-on crash between two cars north of Ramallah.

One of the drivers was apparently drunk and suffered serious injuries in the crash, while two women passengers in his car died instantly, police said. Two men in the other car were seriously injured. Ambulances brought all of the injured to a Ramallah hospital. (Itim)

### NPT

the UN delegate from Finland, who served as chairman of the winter preparatory committee for the review and extension conference.

Politically, such a vote might not seem like a resounding endorsement, Patokallio said. Nonetheless, the treaty cannot be canceled.

Patokallio told UN correspondents there has been dramatic development toward disarmament in the last five years.

"You can argue whether this is due to the [Non-Proliferation] Treaty, or not," he said, adding that he thought it was more likely related to the end of the Cold War.

"The purpose of the NPT is to preserve the security of all, not the nuclear-weapons monopoly of a few," said Christopher, who gave the welcoming remarks as representative of the host country.

### CHINA

"Moscow will not accept any advice from America about its relations with other countries, in particular with the Islamic Republic of Iran," Ambassador Sergey Tret'yakov said in remarks broadcast by Iranian television.

He said Russia would act with "one hundred per cent" independence to fulfill its contract to construct a nuclear power plant at Bushehr on the Gulf.

## Christie's Passover Preview 18-22 April 1995



René Magritte (1898-1967) La trahison des images, oil on canvas, 27.3 x 41.2 cm. Painted in 1935. Estimate: \$300,000-\$500,000. To be sold Christie's NY, 11 May 1995.

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## Would-be Mount worshipers demand to be charged

BILL HUTMAN

MEMBERS of a right-wing group demanding that Jews be allowed to pray on the Temple Mount challenged police to press charges against them for trying to pray there yesterday.

Eighteen members of the group, Hai V'kayam, were detained for trying to pray on the Temple Mount, but released soon afterwards.

"The police don't want to press charges against us, because they know it wouldn't look good trying to defend a policy of preventing Jews from praying on the Temple Mount," said group spokesman Monty Carpel.

Police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby rejected the allegations and said charges will be filed soon against Hai V'kayam members. "It takes time to complete an investigation and prepare charges."

Hai V'kayam members have been detained during several previous attempts to pray on the Temple Mount and then released without any charges ever being filed against them, Carpel said.

Police forbid anyone but Moslems from praying on the Temple Mount, on the grounds that Jewish

and Christian worship there would spark unrest.

The policy has been upheld several times by the High Court.

In yesterday's incident, Hai V'kayam members divided into two groups that tried to enter the Temple Mount at separate gates. The members were recognized by police and prevented from going inside.

Members of the group, headed by convicted Jewish underground member Yehuda Etzion, began praying at the gates, and after a brief scuffle with police were detained.

Carpel vowed they would try again to pray on the Temple Mount and would next time disguise themselves so they would not be recognized by police guarding the site.

Meanwhile, Temple Mount Faithful leader Gershon Solomon yesterday petitioned the High Court to allow him to enter the Temple Mount. A hearing on the petition has been scheduled for this morning.

Solomon, who has called for the removal of the mosques from the Temple Mount, has been forbidden from entering the site by police on the grounds his presence there would provoke unrest.



Jerusalem's new police anti-terrorism motorcycle unit officially goes into action yesterday.

(Brian Hendler)

## Anti-terrorism motorcycle unit takes to Jerusalem's streets

BILL HUTMAN

JERUSALEM'S new police anti-terrorism motorcycle unit officially went into action yesterday with much fanfare, while hard questions still remain unanswered about its potential effectiveness.

Police brass hope putting policemen armed with M-16s on high-powered motorcycles will permit quick response to terrorism attacks, while also helping in the war on crime.

The new unit is also meant to have an "intimidating presence," which should scare away some potential terrorists and criminals in the capital, according to Dep.-Cmdr. Avi Feder, the unit's commander.

However, Feder told the Jerusalem Post that the "Motorcycle Unit," as it is called, is still in an "experimental stage, and its operations over the next several months will be studied closely."

Feder admitted putting an anti-terrorism unit of high-powered motorcycles had its problems, the most worrisome being the difficulty in firing a weapon from a motorcycle, he said.

The motorcyclists would also be an easy target for rock-throwers in Arab neighborhoods of the city, where much of their anti-terrorism work will be concentrated, Feder said.

Feder declined to say how much it cost to set up the unit, which has 30 policemen. Jerusalem police chief Cmdr. Arye Amit said he didn't know how much it cost or how much police paid for the 12 Kawasaki-500 motorbikes purchased for the unit.

as well as the purchase of the jackets and helmets.

Amit said the idea for a motorcycle anti-terrorism unit was taken from Turkish police, who have been operating such a unit for nearly two years.

Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz became acquainted with the unit during a recent official visit to Turkey and later gave the go-ahead for it to be established in Jerusalem.

Feder also spent a short time in Turkey studying the operations of their motorcycle units.

If the Jerusalem experience is a success, a motorcycle anti-terrorism unit is likely to be set up in Tel Aviv, according to Amit. He said he was sure the unit would prove effective.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Romanian worker dies of poisoning

A Romanian worker employed at a Jerusalem construction site died yesterday morning after drinking charcoal lighter fluid. Three other workers who also drank the fluid were in satisfactory condition.

The man's body was found in his apartment in the Talpiot neighborhood. A Magen David Adom ambulance team brought the other workers to Hadassah-University Hospital at Ein Kerem.

Police said they had not yet determined why the workers drank the fluid. The fluid is also being examined, but police believe the workers mistook it for an alcoholic beverage. *Itm*

#### Sneh leaves for Egypt

Health Minister Ephraim Sneh left for Cairo yesterday for a two-day official visit as guest of his Egyptian counterpart, Dr. Ali Abdel Fattah.

Sneh will visit state medical institutions and hold meetings with Egyptian health officials in order to establish foundations for cooperation between the two countries in the field of health.

Sneh, a physician, will meet senior government officials and lecture before the Egyptian National Institute for Middle East Research. He is being accompanied by his deputy minister, MK Nawaf Massalha.

#### Stranded hiker discovered

A hiker who fell into a deep wadi in the Judean Desert and was stranded there overnight was rescued yesterday, after being discovered by Beduin living in the area. Constantine Koganovski, 20, was taken by helicopter to the nearby settlement of Ma'aleh Amos, where he lives, and then by ambulance to Hadassah-University Hospital at Ein Kerem, where he was reported in good condition.

Rescue workers said Koganovski was lucky he suffered only a broken shoulder in the fall and was discovered by Beduin, as he set out on his hike without water or even a map.

### Drug raid nets 15 suspects

POLICE arrested 15 people during a raid on a suspected drug dealer in Kiryat Ata early yesterday morning.

The raid followed weeks of work by an undercover agent to try to discover the source of heroin supplies to area drug addicts.

The spokesman for the Zvulun police station said the suspected dealer was among those arrested. The man, in his 30s, allegedly used his mother's apartment in Kiryat Ata for his drug deals.

The spokesman said the suspect was one of the biggest dealers in the area and his arrest was likely to disrupt supplies to users. He added that police found and confiscated relatively large quantities of heroin during the raid.

David Rudge

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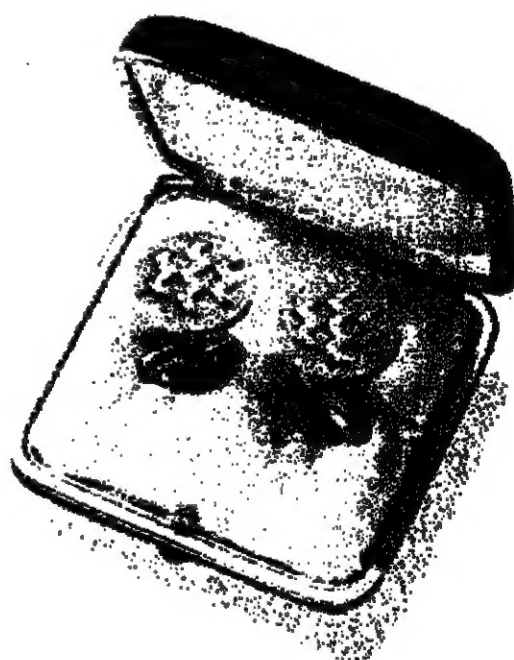
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## 14 Christians die in Moslem carnage in Philippines

ZAMBOANGA (Reuters) - Filipino Moslem extremists killed 14 Christian hostages in a violent orgy, mutilating and beheading some of them, while fleeing pursuing troops in the southern Philippines, a survivor said yesterday.

But the rebels spared a woman captive, believed to be a government engineer with whom army officers say one of the guerrillas has fallen in love.

One other hostage escaped the mass execution carried out early on Saturday by the fundamentalist Abu Sayyaf guerrillas, survivor Rustico Secundo told reporters.

More than 2,000 soldiers have been pursuing the guerrillas in the mountainous Zamboanga peninsula since the band sacked the town of Ipi on April 4 and killed 53 mostly unarmed civilians.

In Manila, President Fidel Ramos called a meeting of the National Security Council for Friday to discuss the threat from the Abu Sayyaf and intelligence reports that they were getting Russian-made weapons from Afghanistan.

Secundo, taken to a Zamboanga hospital with slash wounds after being rescued by soldiers on Sunday, said he overheard the guerrillas saying the hostages "had become extra baggage" and had to be killed to hasten their withdrawal.

"I kept praying Psalm 23, 'The Lord is my Shepherd. I shall not want.' I kept repeating the prayer when they started hacking us."

Secundo said of his mortally wounded companions: "I heard them calling their mother's

names as they lay dying."

Those killed had grown too weak to carry on after their captors forced them to act as porters, sometimes carrying their firearms or duffel bags filled with bundles of money the rebels looted from banks in Ipi, he said.

The deaths brought to at least 20 the number of hostages killed since the start of the manhunt for the raiders. A survivor has alleged that one of them was a 14-year-old boy the guerrillas slaughtered before eating his flesh for lunch.

Forty guerrillas have died in clashes with troops, the military said.

About 200 rebels took part in the Ipi attack, seen as an escalation of fundamentalist violence in the southern islands, where various Moslem groups are fighting for autonomy.

About half of the group escaped by sea while the rest retreated into the mountains.

The army deployed extra troops in Pagadian and General Santos cities as well as in Sarangani province and other southern areas to ward off any further raids following sightings of boatloads of suspected Abu Sayyaf men, Brigadier-General Renato Garcia said.

Police around Manila have been on the alert for a week in fear of guerrilla strikes in the city of 8.5 million people.

"I saw how they beheaded (some of) my companions," Secundo told reporters.

Hacked in the neck and backside, the 24-year-old farmer survived by playing dead and floating in a mangrove swamp until soldiers came.

## US Supreme Court ponders controversial species case

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Supreme Court, in what may be its most important environmental case in nearly two decades, is about to decide whether the Endangered Species Act bans destruction of wildlife habitats on private property.

After hearing arguments yesterday, the justices must decide whether landowners violate the 1973 law if they change the natural homes of endangered or threatened species.

A federal appeals court ruled last year that the law bars only direct threats such as hunting, trapping or otherwise directly killing the species, but not indirect threats such as destruction of habitat.

That ruling in an Oregon dispute over protection of the Northern spotted owl was hailed as one of the timber industry's greatest legal victories and called by environmentalists a grave threat to the Endangered Species Act's continued effectiveness.

Potentially millions of acres in the Pacific Northwest could be affected by the court's ruling. Endangered species battles also are being waged on hundreds of mil-

lions of acres of privately owned land in other parts of the country.

A congressional report said that 90 percent of the 781 endangered or threatened species listed by the government in 1993 have habitats on privately owned land.

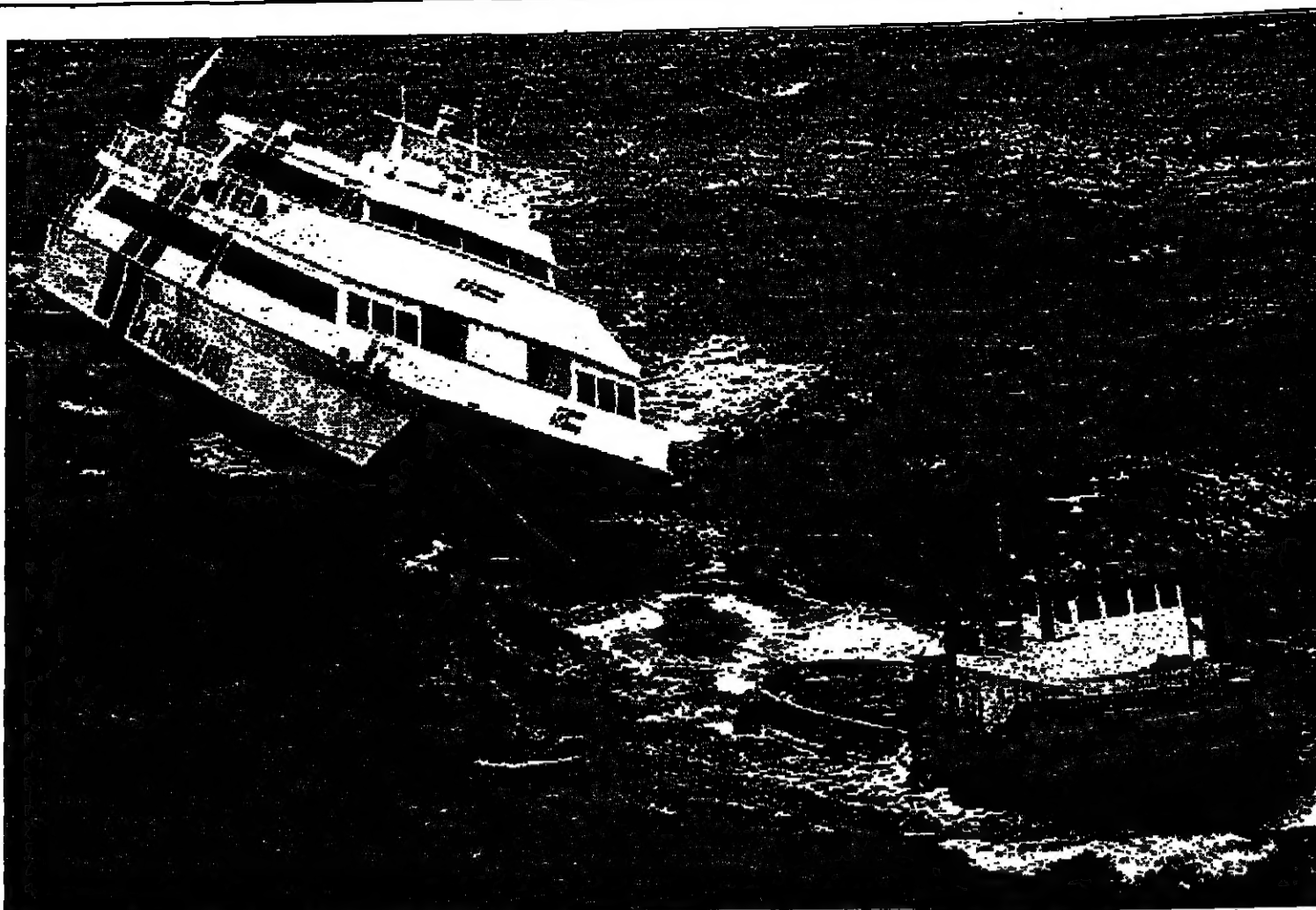
Supporters and critics of the Endangered Species Act agree that the court's ruling, to be announced by late June, could eclipse in importance the high court's 1978 decision that said Congress intended to protect endangered species "whatever the cost."

The 1978 ruling blocked completion of a huge dam because it posed a threat to an endangered species, a tiny fish called the snail darter.

The Endangered Species Act makes it a crime to "take" any endangered species, and by regulation that prohibition is applied as well to threatened species.

The law defines "take" to mean "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect."

The Fish and Wildlife Service, a federal agency, has regulations defining "harm" to include "significant habitat modification" leading to an injury of a protected species.



The Saint Malo catamaran ferry lists heavily to port as it is towed by tug to be beached on the Jersey coast. (Reuters)

## 300 Channel Islands ferry passengers rescued as catamaran begins to sink

RESCUERS attending a stricken French ferry in the English Channel said yesterday all 300 people on board had been safely transferred to other vessels. Seventeen people were reported injured.

They said the passengers from the St Malo catamaran were being taken by various vessels to the port of St Helier in Jersey, one of the British-ruled Channel Islands.

The passengers abandoned ship after the St Malo's port hull was holed. They took to life rafts for the transfer at sea to another ferry, a number of other vessels and a lifeboat.

All but the captain and crew were evacuated to rescue boats after the French-owned craft suffered damage to one of its hulls in one-meter seas 70 km west of the French coast.

The St. Malo ferry, listing in moderate seas, was being towed to port by a French tug.

The source of the damage, which occurred about 10 a.m. 1.5 km off Corbiere Point on the British-ruled island of Jersey was not determined. But one eyewitness said the boat had steered too close to the rocky shore.

The ferry, carrying day-trippers west to its sister islands of Sark and Guernsey, operates daily between the Channel Islands and the French port of St. Malo. Jersey, though part of the United Kingdom, lies about 300 km south

of the English coast. "Some of the passengers were on life rafts and were taken on by other boats and some were lifted off by helicopters onto boats," said Harry Proffitt, who watched the rescue effort from shore.

"All the passenger shipping that was in the area came to its assistance. You could see maybe about 15 boats out there."

Cherbourg authorities said 307 people had been aboard the vessel, most of them French, German and English tourists making a day trip to the island, which is about 70 km west of France's Cotentin Peninsula. Today is a national holiday in Britain.

Jersey police said 17 passengers were injured and some were taken by British and French helicopters to the island's main hospital. Six were suffering from broken limbs, police said.

"All people are basically accounted for," said Steve Huxley, senior watch officer at Falmouth Coast Guard station, southern England.

An eyewitness said the St. Malo had got too close to Jersey's rocky southwest shoreline. The vessel had been scheduled to go to Sark, then

onto Guernsey, both to the northwest. "I was fishing on the rocks and I saw her come around the back of the lighthouse," said local resident Dave Turner, who noted boats often sailed that direction as "a short cut on the high tide."

"But when she was coming into the bay she came in too far. I've seen dozens of them come in and you could tell she was in too close," he told the BBC.

"She was just off course, so she hit on her port side on this rock that they try to miss, obviously. ... Then she twisted around slightly to port and started to keel over," he added.

Rescue authorities disputed this account. "Where she was in quite deep water, and no rocks or anything like that around," said Paul Mummack of the Jersey Harbor Office.

"We have had reports of logs in the area ... but that's pure speculation."

Passengers donned life jackets and boarded lifeboats in seas with waves of one-meter-high, Mummack said.

The London Weather Center said conditions in Jersey were adequate for sailing and rescue efforts, with winds gusting up to 30 mph.

The St. Malo was built in 1993 in Norway, according to the ship's French owners Channiland, which declined further comment.

## Japan cult leader ordered nerve gas production

TOKYO (Reuters) - The leader of a Japanese doomsday cult ordered followers to produce the deadly gas sarin, the type of nerve gas used in attacks on Tokyo subways, media reports said yesterday.

Tokyo Broadcasting System (TBS) said the order from cult guru Shoko Asahara was mentioned in a detailed journal of the Aum Shinri Kyo (Supreme Truth Sect) confiscated by police.

The journal, kept by members of the sect's "Science and Technology Ministry," quoted Asahara as saying: "Making sarin is a very hazardous undertaking. When carrying this out, you need much courage."

Police refused to comment on the report. So far, police have arrested about 100 cult members, including six senior officials, on various charges ranging from abduction to illegal production of weapons.

The cult has been the focus of massive police raids since the March 20 subway attacks, but police have not linked the 10,000-strong sect directly to the attacks in which 12 people were killed and thousands injured.

However, they have found a huge chemical stockpile, including all the ingredients of sarin, a laboratory and a plant at the sect's complex in Kamiku Ishiki, at the foot of Mt. Fuji west of Tokyo.

Asahara has not been seen in public since the day before the subway attacks. The cult also tried to arm itself with guns and tanks through "Russian connections", a Japanese news agency reported.

Kyodo news agency quoted police as saying a senior sect leader attempted to buy tanks from Russia and to make guns from parts bought in Russia.

Kyodo said the sect's "construction minister" visited Russia several times to explore weapons purchases. Police regard the man, who was not identified, as the deputy of Asahara, the 40-year-old sect leader.

Kyodo said the "construction minister" was involved in the sect's purchase of a Russian helicopter last June for some 78 million yen (NIS 2.85 million).

He invited Russian engineers to Japan last September through a Japanese travel agency that handles Russian tourists so that the helicopter could be modified for the sect's needs.

## Eleven die in Taiwan nightclub fire

TAIPEI (AP) - Fire swept through a Taipei nightclub before dawn yesterday, killing 11 people and injuring 13 in the second major club blaze this year. Police suspected arson.

One man was burned to death at the door of an elevator in the "Hymns of Happiness" karaoke club, and ten others who escaped via a stairway died after being hospitalized for smoke inhalation, police said.

Three of the injured were listed in critical condition, they said. It was the latest in a series of deadly fires in recent years, and renewed questions about Taiwan's fire safety standards, criticized as lax after 64 people died in February in the island's deadliest blaze.

Police were looking for a man suspected of tossing a firebomb into the lobby of the five-story building, starting the fire, officer Oung Ching-hu told reporters.

The club was on the top three floors: a beauty parlor on the first two floors also was gutted.

State radio quoted bar waitresses as saying a man, thought to be a disgruntled customer, had threatened to set fire to the club. It did not elaborate.

The club contained 39 custom-

ers and employees, mostly young people, and 15 escaped or were rescued unhurt, police said.

"We were singing in a room and suddenly it went all black," survivor Lin Mei-hui told the radio. "The smoke was so thick that we could not find the exit."

Lin said she and two friends escaped unharmed from the fifth floor by climbing down an outdoor advertising billboard.

Fire officer Chang Ching-rung said the club used flammable materials in its partitions and decorations but otherwise met safety standards.

The club was licensed as a food store and had been fined nine times - a total of 168,000 Taiwan dollars (NIS 19,500) - over the past two years for operating a karaoke bar instead, officials said.

Taipei Mayor Chen Shui-bian expressed regret for the fire and said that a crackdown against illegal businesses which violate safety or zoning codes would continue, but could take some time.

"There are just too many of them," he said. City councilors accused Chen of failing to fulfill promises to improve safety in the capital.

## Gaddafi ready for holy war over pilgrims

News agencies  
TRIPOLI

LIBYAN leader Muammar Gaddafi said his country was ready to fight to enable Libyans to fly directly to Saudi Arabia for pilgrimage to Mecca.

"They (the Christians) launched a crusade when they accused Moslems of preventing them from reaching Jerusalem. We are ready for a war to reach Mecca," Gaddafi told Reuters in an interview yesterday.

In Cairo, Foreign Minister Amr Moussa said Egypt and Libya are discussing how to get Libyan pilgrims to Saudi Arabia in a way that would not violate UN sanctions, the AP meanwhile reported yesterday.

Moussa said: "There are contacts presently between Egypt and Libya and a number of other countries to find the best solution to facilitate the travel of the Libyan pilgrims." He gave no details.

Gaddafi said flights taking Libyans for pilgrimage to Islam's holiest shrine must be seen as exempt from a UN Security Council air embargo imposed on his country over the Lockerbie affair.

Gaddafi last month threatened to send 80 flights of pilgrims to Saudi Arabia starting today. Although the United Nations could issue a waiver for the hajj, Libya has not requested one, UN officials say.

If Gaddafi made good on his threat, it would put neighboring Moslem nations in a difficult position because they would find it politically impossible to block religious flights. Libyan planes would have to fly over Egypt or Sudan to get to Saudi Arabia.

The ban on flights to and from Libya is part of sanctions, including arms sales, imposed on the North African country in 1992 after it refused to hand over two Libyans wanted in connection with the 1988 bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, in which 270 people died.

The pilgrimage (hajj) season is in early May.

Tripoli-based Arab diplomats said they expected Libyan flights to start today from Tripoli and Benghazi airports.

## Britain catches gambling fever with a vengeance

LONDON (Reuters) - Britons now neglect their health and their pets or spend less on funerals to finance their new craze - gambling.

The hugely successful National Lottery, launched last November, has beaten all forecasts, with 30 million people now gambling 100 million pounds (NIS 480 million) on it each week.

"Some people must have cut spending in order to pay for it," said Chris Dillow, economist at Nomura Research Institute.

Last Sunday lottery fever claimed its first fatality when Tim O'Brien shot himself dead after discovering he had missed a share of an eight million pound (NIS 36 million) prize because he had forgotten to renew his weekly stake.

The frenzy has ruined friendships. Ismail Lorgat of Lancashire is going to sue his best friend, Mukhtar Mohidin, for a slice of the biggest jackpot yet - 17.8 million pounds (NIS 86 million).

Lorgat said shopowner Mohidin had agreed to split any winnings from the winning ticket.

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Details of these events, and of settlement possibilities in the Jordan Valley, from 177-022-2260.

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# Gaddafi ready for holy war over pilgrims

News agencies  
TRIPOU

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The ban on flights to and from Libya is part of sanctions against the regime, imposed as a result of its refusal to hand over the 1986 bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, which killed 270 people.

The pilgrimage ban was announced last week.

Reports-based Arab flight said they expected Libya to start today from Tripoli and to fly to Mecca.

# France plays down threats to withdraw from Bosnia

SARAJEVO (Reuters) - France backed off yesterday from its threats to withdraw its peacekeeping troops, made after two French soldiers were killed in many days by snipers in Sarajevo.

Instead, senior French officials said they were discussing ways to improve the safety of UN peacekeepers in Bosnia.

A foreign ministry official said: "We are looking to avoid a withdrawal at all costs. All the solutions we are proposing to our partners are aimed at avoiding a withdrawal, which in our eyes would be a solution of despair."

In the Bosnian capital United Nations officials, struggling to restart air flights to the besieged city, said UN service flights into Sarajevo had resumed but complained that the Bosnian Serbs were trying to dictate who the UN could carry.

The airstrip has been closed for three of the last four weeks because of Serb attacks. On April 9 an American cargo plane was peppered with gunfire. The airlift which helps feed the city has not been restarted.

A UN spokesman said the Serbs objected to the UN flying Bosnian government officials in and out of the capital, adding that UN officials would discuss the matter with the Serbs tomorrow.

"We're well aware of the disquiet expressed by the Bosnian Serbs with regard to the carriage of Bosnian nationals on our flights," said UN spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Gary Coward.

Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic reacted angrily to the news that the UN would negotiate the passage of government officials and citizens with the Serbs.

"Ours is a government recognised by the UN and there should be no discussion of this issue with the Serbs," he said.

With fighting continuing across the republic, and diplomatic efforts to reach a peaceful settlement at a standstill, French officials said their main concern was to extend the battered four-month ceasefire which runs out at the end of this month.

UN investigators said the shot that killed a French soldier on Friday could have come from either government or Serb-held areas. The second killing, on Saturday, could also have been from either side but the likelihood of it coming from the government side was extremely slim.

Sporadic clashes have increased, as diplomatic efforts by the five-power Contact Group to persuade Serbia to recognise Croatia and Bosnia as the prelude to a negotiated settlement have foundered in Belgrade.

Germany's Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel called yesterday for a rapid meeting of the Contact Group, stressing that cooperation between the five members was more important than ever.

"In view of the current situation, I want the international Contact Group to meet again without delay," Kinkel said. "All five members must stick to their joint decisions. That includes Russia."

Russia's parliament has urged President Boris Yeltsin to step up efforts to have UN sanctions against Belgrade lifted, something Kinkel said he was against.



Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani places a wreath on the memorial of Mahatma Gandhi in New Delhi on his arrival for a three-day state visit, the first by an Iranian president since the Islamic revolution in 1979. (Reuters)

# Turks besiege Kurdish rebel stronghold

TURKISH troops and planes besieged Kurdish rebels holed up in a mountain stronghold in eastern Turkey yesterday while Ankara's military offensive in northern Iraq entered a fifth week.

"Clashes in the Alibogazi ravine area are getting heavier. Many PKK (Kurdistan Workers Party) are dead," an official told Reuters in Turkey's eastern province of Tunceli.

At least two fighter-bombers and Super Cobra helicopters firing rockets struck at Alibogazi, a deep 30-km gash in the Munzur mountains which the Turkish army last managed to conquer more than 50 years ago, army sources said.

Military officials said 24 rebels of the separatist PKK had been killed on Sunday night.

Although international attention has focused on Turkey's military offensive against PKK bases in northern Iraq, the most intense fighting in recent days has been inside Turkey.

About 25,000 Turkish troops have moved in on the ravine where about 500 PKK rebels are believed to be holed up under the leadership of PKK regional commander Semdin Sakik - known as "Fingerless Zeki" - after losing a thumb while firing a rocket.

Turkey's emergency rule governor in the southeast, Unal Erkan, arrived in Tunceli yesterday morning with a large team of Turkish journalists and headed to the ravine area.

More than 15,000 people have died since the Marxist PKK took up arms for a separate homeland in southeast Turkey in 1984.

Western countries have urged Turkey to end the incursion into northern Iraq out of concern for civilians. Germany has frozen military aid and officials say Turkey's hoped-for customs pact with the European Union is in jeopardy.

A Turkish state security court in the southeast town of Diyarbakir yesterday deported 11 Germans accused of taking part in an illegal pro-Kurdish demonstration on Sunday.

Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller has begun a week-long visit to the United States. Government officials declined to comment on unreported reports in Turkish newspapers that she will tell President Bill Clinton tomorrow of her intention to withdraw Turkey's 30,000 or so troops from Iraq next month.

Turkey's offensive covers 14,000 square km of mountains and valleys in northern Iraq. While it is impossible to know the full extent of military activity, Reuters reporters there said most signs indicated the operation was coming to a standstill.

Troops say many PKK rebels fled eastwards to Iran even before the incursion began on March 20.

Turkey is seeking the cooperation of the two main Iraqi Kurdish factions to secure the borders against PKK incursions after an eventual Turkish pullout.

Turkish Red Crescent aid workers are delivering supplies to Kurdish villagers loyal to one of the factions.

Red Crescent official Yavuz Durmus said they had distributed 315 tonnes of aid in the region over the past five weeks. Aid convoys are guarded by tanks and relief workers appear nervous.

"You see what difficult and dangerous conditions we work in," Durmus said after a man in a crowd drew a gun when he thought someone was stealing his rations.

Fadil Merani, a senior politician and member of the Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) being wooed by Turkey, said he believed the operation had failed.

"I believe Turkey will withdraw militarily. They have had no success. We can call it a failed operation. Politically it has served the PKK," he said.

"Rivalry and sporadic fighting between the KDP and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan would make a post-withdrawal agreement difficult to implement, he added.

(Reuters)

# Filipino FM quits over executed maid

MANILA (AP) - In a move to mollify his critics, President Fidel Ramos yesterday announced he has accepted the resignation of Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo, who has been under fire in the wake of the hanging of a Filipino maid in Singapore last month.

Ramos said in a nationally televised press conference that he accepted Romulo's resignation "with deep regret" and appointed the Philippine ambassador to Japan, Domingo Siazon, as Romulo's successor. Romulo will remain in office until April 30.

Ramos, however, still has not decided on whether to accept the resignation of Labor Secretary Nieves Confesor, who has also come under pressure to resign over the hanging of Filipino maid Flor Contemplacion.

Contemplacion was hanged March 17 for the 1991 killing of fellow Filipino maid Delia Maga and her 4-year-old Singaporean ward, Nicholas Huang. Many Filipinos believe she was framed.

Confesor is chairwoman of the governing board of the International Labor Organization. Mario Galman, a spokesman of the ILO office in Manila, said removing Confesor "will not look good internationally."

"I just keep working and see if mine is the next head to roll," Confesor said. "I guess the issue here is not competence nor effectiveness. Do you really have to sack a person just to appease?"

Ramos has been under pressure to remove both Romulo and Confesor. His political opponents have used the Maga-Contemplacion case as an election issue against administration candidates in the May 8 election.

# Winnie Mandela resigns a day before being fired

SOWETO (AP) - Winnie Mandela ended the messy tussle over her Cabinet post with a somber resignation yesterday, a day before her dismissal takes effect.

Mrs. Mandela, who earlier went to court to contest her estranged husband's attempts to strip her of her title, said she was stepping down to pursue "more pressing" interests, and indicated she would drop the legal case.

Mrs. Mandela had chafed at the need to stick close to government policy as a Cabinet member - she had been deputy minister of arts, culture, science and technology. Now, she will be free to act as the conscience of President Nelson Mandela's ANC, a role that has endeared her to the country's impoverished black majority.

"As a member of the ANC, I have a duty and the responsibility to speak frankly, honestly and openly about all matters which affect our movement and the lives of our people," she told dozens of foreign and domestic journalists gathered at her Soweto home. Mrs. Mandela refused to take reporters' questions.

"I shall continue my duties as an ANC member of parliament," she said. "As I have done in the past, I shall continuously give support and full attention to the needs of our people out on the ground."

Mandela has said he fired his wife, from whom he has been separated since 1992, in the interest of maintaining discipline in his fledgling government.

Mrs. Mandela went to court to challenge her March 27 firing, prompting the president to rehire her just long enough to consult leaders of other parties, a Constitutional requirement he had at first neglected.

A new dismissal was to have become official today. Mrs. Mandela was replaced by human rights lawyer Brigitte Mabandla.

Mrs. Mandela said that she had gone to court "to further democracy in order to enforce proper behavior from the highest office in the land" and demanded that reasons be given for her dismissal.

"That goal has been adequately achieved," she said yesterday.

# Saudis behead eight foreigners

DUBAI (Reuters) - Saudi Arabia, which has executed 19 convicted criminals so far this month, yesterday beheaded eight foreigners found guilty of drug smuggling, the interior ministry said.

The ministry, in statements carried by the official Saudi Press Agency, said five Pakistanis were beheaded in Jeddah.

A Yemeni, a Chadian and an Afghan were also beheaded in Jeddah, making the total for the year 84, including 31 in March.

Saudi Arabia, which implements the harsh Sharia law, beheaded about 85 people in 1993, the last year for which there are unofficial statistics.

Public beheadings are usually held on Fridays after the noon Moslem prayers but diplomats said some were being carried out during week days due to a rise in the number of drug-related crimes in the oil-rich kingdom.

# British murder suspect removed from Singapore psychiatric ward

SINGAPORE (AP) - An escaped British convict accused of killing a South African tourist was shifted from a psychiatric ward to a police cell yesterday, and a court recommended that his mother be allowed to visit him.

The court also gave police one more week to investigate John Martin Scripps, arrested on March 19 for the murder of Gerard George Lowe, a 32-year-old businessman from Johannesburg.

The case has attracted international attention because police suspect that Lowe was hacked to death and his body parts dumped in the sea in plastic garbage bags.

A set of body parts were found last month, days after Lowe went missing on the night of March 8-9, and police are trying to match his known blood type with that of the torso, legs and thighs found in the sea.

Meanwhile, Canadian and Thai authorities also are checking if there is a link between the Lowe's murder and the killings of a Canadian woman and her son last month while they were touring Thailand. Scripps, 25, also is being investigated for unsolved murders in Mexico and San Francisco.

Lowe, since his arrest, was kept in the psychiatric ward of the Changi prison. Judge S. Thyagarajan yesterday allowed police to transfer Scripps to a cell at the Criminal Investigation Department headquarters to question him.

Scripps allegedly befriended Lowe in Singapore and they checked into a hotel together. Scripps also is accused of forging Lowe's signature on his credit card transactions worth \$4,255.

The prosecution will appear in court on April 24 to say if they want to detain Scripps further or proceed with trial formalities, said Scripps' lawyer, Edmond Pereira.

He said "the court also felt that Scripps' mother be allowed to visit him in the cell." But it is up to the investigating officer to permit that, he told reporters.

Scripps appeared in court yesterday wearing a white T-shirt. His mother and uncle, who flew in from England for a week's visit, were also in the court, but they refused to give their names or speak with reporters.

# Czar Nicholas II's teeth identified

MOSCOW (AP) - Newly uncovered dental records - and a surprising case of royal tooth decay - may finally close the case of the czar's bones.

A top Russian historian yesterday said the records of Czar Nicholas II's dentist prove remains from a mass grave in 1991 are those of the czar himself.

American, British and Russian forensic scientists have already said as much, but some experts had disagreed, saying the czar - who always had the best of everything - couldn't possibly have a mouthful of cavities.

"Both coroners and the public were surprised to see that the czar had a mouthful of rotten teeth," Venyamin Alexeyev, a member of the government's Commission for Identifying the Remains of the Royal Family, admitted.

But the records of a dentist who treated Nicholas during his family's exile near the city of Yekaterinburg show that the czar's jaw and teeth seriously diseased.

# German Turkish social clubs firebombed

BONN (Reuters) - Petrol bombs were thrown at two Turkish social clubs in southern Germany overnight, causing heavy damage to one of them, police said yesterday.

They said they suspected Turkish extremists of carrying out the attacks in the towns of Backnang and Ditzingen. No one was hurt.

Six Turks have been arrested in connection with petrol bomb attacks on five Turkish banks in the western city of Cologne on Saturday. Police said some of them had a record of activism for the banned Turkish militant left-wing group Dev Sol.

Turkish premises in Germany have been the target of several waves of attacks in the last two years, most recently in the last two months.

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## The power of democracy

THE agreement to end a fierce dispute between Canada and the European Union over Atlantic fishing rights must draw some envious glances from our Middle Eastern corner of the world. As an illustration of the way democracies solve their problems, it provides a salutary lesson for less blessed nations.

While some timid commentators expressed fears that the increasingly heated row could develop into all-out war on the high seas, there really never was any danger of such a disaster. Passions indeed ran high on all sides, but the sum of solid democratic instruments again has proved greater than the flawed human parts that create them. The negotiated agreement has preserved the belief that established democracies do not go to war with one another.

The comment has often been made that had Argentina been a democracy, there would never have been a Falklands War with Britain. Turkey's invasion of Cyprus is sometimes cited as an exception - falsely, for Cyprus had been seized by a military junta when Turkey moved. A similar point has been made regarding the Middle East - that if Israel's neighbors were Denmark, Netherlands, Luxembourg and Belgium, the "Middle East problem" could be solved over a morning coffee.

The crisis between Canada and the EU erupted only a month ago when the Canadians seized the Spanish trawler *Esai* on the high seas, accusing it of overfishing valuable and diminishing stocks of turbot in the north Atlantic. The affair had all the makings of a prolonged and intractable dispute. Like Canada, Spain and Portugal have substantial fishing interests in the

turbot off Newfoundland. Tradition, income and employment made it a potentially explosive domestic issue for any government to handle. Canada bent the ancient rules of the high seas by an act easily interpreted as piracy, but expressed its determination to repeat the seizure of trawlers as it deemed necessary.

Amid the ensuing heat, rhetoric, insults and talk of gunboats steaming to the area of confrontation, the row had all the classic elements of a deteriorating situation. National pride on all sides demanded satisfaction. But it is precisely for such eventualities that the great democratic states have labored so long and hard to build their powerful cooperative institutions, not for the routine bilateral niceties and cultural exchanges. Spain and Portugal were immediately able to call on their European Union for both support and for restraint of nationalist anger. The Canadians were able to activate their vast array of international accords and negotiating procedures.

So, after just a few weeks, all sides at the weekend delivered a detailed, comprehensive and workable agreement, guaranteed by the presidency of the EU, currently held by France. Spaniards, Portuguese and Canadians admitted they had to make compromises but expressed total commitment to the accord. The moral of the story is clear - full democracy is the only system ever evolved that allows nations to have disputes and yet find solutions that preserve international peace, without undermining the pride and dignity of the countries involved. What a pity the lesson will continue to be lost on Israel's neighbors.

## Redefining Zionism

ONE of Zionism's great disappointments is that it has never succeeded in effecting mass immigration from the Western democracies. In the 120 years of the movement's life, idealistic zeal alone has prompted only relatively few to leave a comfortable diaspora environment and make the difficult "ascent" to Israel. Most of the millions who have settled in this country in the past century have come from troubled countries, where Jews were persecuted and discriminated against.

But the purpose of Israel is not merely to provide a haven for the persecuted. Its raison d'être is to be the place - the only place - where national self-realization of the Jewish people can be achieved.

True, the vast majority of Jews in North America and Europe do not feel that a lofty purpose provides enough of a motive to leave comfortable homes and start a new life in Israel. But that there are thousands every year who do move to Israel is an encouraging, exceptional phenomenon, and a source of great hope for Israel's future.

It is against this background that the "redefining" of Zionism by Judy Amit, the head of the Jewish Agency's emissaries in North Amer-

ica, should be viewed. Obviously influenced by talk of a "post-Zionist" era, Amit has suggested that a more practical goal for Israel's emissaries in the US should be to encourage visits to Israel rather than fight the windmills of indifference by preaching aliyah.

A most appropriate response to the idea came from the Agency's aliyah department head, Uri Gordon. "If we want to get tourists to come to Israel, we can send tourism experts to speak to them," he said on Sunday. "But when the Jewish Agency sends aliyah emissaries, their job is to get people to make aliyah."

Clearly, the only justification for sending emissaries at substantial cost is that they act as Zionist proselytizers. Their job is not to induce Jews to contribute money to Israeli causes or spend money in Israel as tourists. It is to convince them that Israel is a historic necessity, that no complete national Jewish fulfillment is possible without it, and that they need Israel more than Israel needs them.

Of course, to be able to do that, the emissaries themselves must be convinced. With "post-Zionist" notions nurtured by some of the nation's leaders, emissaries can hardly be blamed for being confused.



FILED 95

## The Likud needs Levy

AMIEL UNGAR

DAVID Levy's recent rally in Tel Aviv revived fears that the Likud could yet snatch defeat from the jaws of victory because of its inability to maintain cohesion. The nightmare scenario is a repeat of the 1992 fiasco as typified by the hasty patch-up job between Yitzhak Shamir and Levy weeks before the election.

It disgusted Likud members who felt that Shamir had disgracefully caved in to Levy, while it failed to mollify Levy supporters, who suspected that Shamir would jettison the agreement as soon as it became convenient.

However appealing it may be for supporters of Likud chairman Binyamin Netanyahu to dismiss Levy as a prima donna and a politician of the past generation, they should resist the temptation. Levy remains a symbol to a vital part of the Likud coalition, one which paradoxically transcends the degree of sympathy or antipathy to Levy himself.

The polls which show Netanyahu handily defeating Yitzhak Rabin also show that a majority counsels Netanyahu to conciliate Levy. Even if Netanyahu and the Likud can elude an electoral victory without the support of Levy's followers, they must still reckon with the aftermath of victory. Forging a broad national coalition is vital not only for the Likud's electoral success, but for winning the desperate battle that will follow as Netanyahu attempts to undo the damage brought about by the present government.

A victorious Likud will then confront the Israeli left, the Americans, and the Arabs who will apply all sorts of pressure to make sure that the process of Israeli dismemberment continues. The na-

tional camp will require the active involvement of David Levy in this crucial struggle.

IT IS all well and good to argue that there can be no return to factional infighting in the Likud. The present balance of power in the Likud and particularly the makeup of the current Likud Knesset faction are, however, the results of that same factional infighting.

Levy is far from an innocent victim of that infighting, but his opponents were not always entirely on

Forging a broad national coalition is vital for the party

the side of the angels. An internal party peace cannot mirror the results of the last party battle, but must offer the defeated side something more to diminish its appetite for continuing the struggle or adopting a rule or ruin strategy.

This does not mean that Netanyahu should accede to Levy's "60-40 or fight" ultimatum. The proposal of the Levy camp to allow voters in the Likud primary to select only 60 percent of the slate is also a recipe for discord.

Levy correctly assumes that his disciplined minority will vote uniformly on primary day to select a bloc of Knesset nominees loyal to Levy. Approved voting lists will be circulated between the faithful to assure such a result. This organization will, however, breed counter-mobilization by forces opposed to Levy in the Likud.

Anyone who has followed

American politics knows that primaries can leave as acid a residue of ill will as convention politics.

If the entire purpose of the exercise is to ensure adequate representation for the Levy camp (the only real opposition within the Likud) then it should be done openly and directly, without percentage subterfuges. The various opinion polls concern in projecting Likud strength in the forthcoming elections at about 40-plus seats, while the current Likud faction at present numbers 32 members.

A basis for a compromise would have the first 32 elected on an all-vote-for-all basis, as Netanyahu would prefer. Slots 33 to 40 would go to Levy designates, while from 41 onwards voter preference would again determine the order.

Assuming that Levy, his brother Maxim and economics spokesperson Dan Tihon can be elected outright, Levy will have his representation. Netanyahu, for his part, will know that the Levy camp will be fully mobilized for the election to assure the entry of numbers 33 to 40, who collectively represent the difference between opposition and a return to power.

Once this magnanimity has been proffered to Levy, it will be his turn to display good faith and accept Netanyahu's leadership.

Should Levy persist in petulant refusal to mention Netanyahu by name - a tactic perfected by Ben-Gurion against Menachem Begin - a divorce will be inevitable.

Once Netanyahu has gone the extra mile towards Levy, Levy can either help foster party unity or, virtually deserted, walk the last mile in his political career.

The writer teaches political science at Bar-Ilan University.

## Wild words

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

AFTER last week's terrorist attacks near Kfar Darom and Netzarim in which eight Jews lost their lives, several Palestinian passersby, asked by Israel TV how they felt about the attacks, declared that they felt "satisfied."

This would have shocked me much more had it not been for the fact that a day before I buried my daughter last month, a fellow Jew called me up and said: "You left-wing piece of shit. We are so happy."

If a Jew can rejoice at the death of my daughter because he dislikes my political views, why should I complain if a Palestinian feels satisfied by the deaths of Israeli soldiers who for many years he saw as an oppressive enemy, responsible for the loss of many innocent Palestinian lives?

"The man who called you up must be mad," was the reaction of a well-known right-wing acquaintance from Kiryat Arba, whom I called soon after the anonymous caller hung up. "Since he didn't identify himself, you shouldn't do him the honor of reacting."

The conversation with the Kiryat Arba man was comforting, but it doesn't change the fact that we too easily submit to calling Jews who utter horrible words or commit abominable deeds "madmen," and Palestinians who do the same "authentic representatives of their people."

And what about our leaders, who seem to take great delight in flinging terrible personal insults at each other, and are then deeply hurt when they get insults flung back at them?

JUST BEFORE the holiday, Labor Party secretary-general Nissim Zivili called upon Likud chairman Binyamin Netanyahu to help put an end to the caustic confrontation

Rabin and Netanyahu must admit that neither has been too careful with his tongue

between the leaders of the two parties and declare a truce, at least during Pessah, the remembrance days for Holocaust victims and fallen soldiers, and Independence Day.

Netanyahu's response was petty. He welcomed the fact "that Zivili thinks the Labor Party should give up the line of personal attacks and slights against the Likud" - apparently forgetting who called Rabin a drunk during the elections, who carries banners at demonstrations stating that Rabin is a liar and a murderer, and some of the things he himself has said over the last year about Rabin and other Labor leaders, both in the Knesset plenary and out of it. A real truce must be based on the admission that neither major party leader has been too careful with his tongue, and that, at least in Rabin's case, he did exhibit an extraordinary degree of restraint for a very long time.

Following the terrorist attacks in the Gaza Strip, TV moderator Dan Shilon invited several politicians onto his talk show to discuss the implications. Two of the guests were Meretz's Amnon Rubinstein, minister of education and culture, and Likud MK Eliahu Ben-Eliassar.

The discussion was perfectly civilized, without name-calling, even though some extremely harsh things were said. It showed how different a debate between the two main political camps can be, even when it deals with existential issues.

The problem is that a nation which has got used to debates which sound more and more like public-house brawls, probably doesn't listen to serious argument, and isn't really interested in it, anyway.

Just as words from the guts rather than the heads of Palestinian passersby after a terrorist attack on Israelis harm the peace process, so personal slights flung around by politicians who seem to be out of control could destroy the democratic fabric of this country.

If the truce Zivili has sought to introduce doesn't hold, the next general elections will be pretty nasty.

I SHOULD like to express my deepest thanks to all the Post readers who wrote or phoned to express their love and sympathy following my article "A little white flower," two weeks ago.

The writer is a political scientist.

## Arafat's clearest violation

PESACH WOLICKI

the event "a significant step toward resolving the fates of Baumei, Feldman and Katz." It did, however, verify that the PLO possesses, at the very least, critical information regarding the fate of the Sultan Yakoub MIAs.

Arafat has never revealed when, where, and from whom he came to possess the Baumei ID tag. This simple piece of data represents vital information, as whoever brought the ID tag to Arafat's of-

The PLO chief has never come clean about Israel's MIAs

fices is one step closer to Baumei and the other captives.

Furthermore, it was well known to the families of the MIAs, as well as the Israeli government, that for years Arafat possessed the entire unbroken ID tag. The return of only half the tag is a slap in the face, one whose greater symbolism must not be lost.

Arafat knows full well that the Israeli army ID tag represents the life of a soldier; and that a broken tag implies death.

Additionally, the known facts about the missing men implicate Arafat.

IT WAS widely reported in 1982 that three Israeli tank crewmen were paraded through the streets of Damascus.

Even Amnesty International,

whose attitude toward Israel is consistently less than favorable, has reported that the men are believed to be alive and held in Syrian-controlled Lebanon (Amnesty Report 1988).

For over half a year after their capture, the Sultan Yakoub captives were held in PLO custody, before the faction holding them split from the PLO, taking the soldiers with them. It is inconceivable that Arafat does not know who these men are, and where they went.

To make matters worse, at a press conference in Moscow on April 25 last year, Rabin said that he knew Arafat had further information, but that Arafat was reluctant to divulge it for fear of complicating his relationship with Syria. It is difficult to imagine Arafat pointing a finger at Assad for any reason, let alone to help save Israeli lives.

Arguments are frequently made that Arafat has changed his ways, and that his terrorist days are over. Arafat's apologists also claim that he is doing the best he can under difficult circumstances.

Even if the most generous assessments of the PLO chairman's behavior are true, the fact that he continues to withhold information regarding Israel's captive and missing soldiers vindicates those who believe otherwise.

At last check, having any part in the taking or holding of hostages was still included in the international definition of terrorism.

The writer is executive director of the International Coalition for Missing Israeli Soldiers.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### PENSION FUNDS

Sir, - In her article of March 24, "Those pesky pensioners," Sarah Honig writes: "I didn't realize I was such a parasite."

That no one accused her of being one is besides the point. There is no question that the Histadrut pension funds are in trouble. But that is due primarily to a gross actuarial miscalculation when the funds were founded many years ago. In the course of those years, the life expectancy of the pensioners, as well as the rest of us, has expanded by at least 10 years, so that there are many more pensioner entitlements than originally anticipated. In other words, the payments into the funds were not enough. This is far from accusing the Histadrut of misusing the funds for other purposes, with no proof. It is also obvious that the shortfall will have to come from the treasury, i.e. the taxpayer.

DAVID SEGAL  
Ramat Hasharon.

### INDOCTRINATION

Sir, - A memo issued by Israel's Family and Sex Education Unit in 1993 for secular schools teaches that homosexuality is not a choice. We are also told that homosexuality is genetic or biological in origin. In September 1994, in a taped interview, Hava Barnea, head of the sex education unit, told the writer, "We really don't know the answer."

If this is true, why are Hava Barnea and the Ministry of Education teaching the children of Israel that homosexuality is not a choice? Can they provide us with conclusive scientific evidence that homosexuality is either biologically or genetically based? If not, then Israel's Education Ministry is engaging in indoctrination, not education.

KEVIN E. ABRAMS,  
Israel's representative for  
The National Association for  
Research and Therapy of  
Homosexuality

Jerusalem.

### OPPOSITION SUPPORT

Sir, - Prime Minister Rabin charges that the Likud should not attack government policy after terrorist attacks, as Labor supported Likud responses to terrorism while in opposition, such as the Lital Operation against the PLO in 1978.

In fact, when Rabin has taken decisive action against terrorists, such as Operation Accountability against Hizbullah or the deportation of 400 Hamas terrorists, the opposition has supported government policy. The rescue attempt of Nahshon Wachsmann, although it ended in tragedy, was also supported by the opposition.

What outrages the Likud is the

government's refusal to take any action after each suicide bombing. Instead, the security of Israeli soldiers and civilians is entrusted to Yasser Arafat, who is supposedly going to crush Hamas.

If Rabin finds the courage to launch Operation Accountability II - this time against Hamas and Islamic Jihad terror cells in Gaza, he will be fully supported by the opposition. If, however, he continues to commit to the failed Oslo process, the Likud will have a moral obligation to condemn the government's cowardice.

JOSEPH SCHICK  
Brooklyn, N.Y.

### HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR

Sir, - I am a Holocaust survivor who came to Israel from Poland in 1966, that is after the 1965 cut-off date for applications for compensation from Germany.

In 1993, an advertisement appeared offering to survivors of the Holocaust the possibility of receiving compensation from Germany, within the framework of Claims Conference Article 2 Fund, but only to those earning less than NIS 3,000 a month.

I am 64 years old, and I have been struggling with cancer since 1990, with the help of chemotherapy and radiation. I continue working at my job of 25 years at the Acre Municipality. My wages are a little above NIS 3,000 a month. This is the reason the Article 2 Fund refused my application. They asked me to apply when I am 65 and retire. In retirement my earnings will be much below NIS 3,000 a month.

There is no certainty that I will reach the age of 65 and retire.

I need to receive as soon as possible biological medical treatment which is available at the Anderson Hospital, Houston, Texas. I hoped to pay for this treatment with money from my compensation from Germany from the Article 2 Fund.

I wrote to the German president, asking him to help me receive this compensation now, but to no avail. German law discriminates against survivors in my position. I succeeded in surviving and staying alive in spite of the Nazi atrocities and rehabilitated myself to become a useful citizen, but according to German law, I am to be punished again because of my slightly higher wages.

MARK SPORN  
Acre.

مكثان الناصر



- The competition is open to composers of Israeli nationality (no age limit).
- Duration of work: 20-25 minutes.
- Works are to be submitted anonymously (as stated in the Competition Regulations).
- Works should be submitted to the Israel Music Institute, not later than May 31, 1996.
- The Competition Regulations are available from the Israel Music Institute, and the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra.
- The final stage of the competition will take place in October 1996, on a date to be announced.

## TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WEEKS ON CHARTS	ARTIST	TITLE
#1	1	5	ARIK EINSTEIN	FILLED WITH LOVE
#2	3	2	KIMBLE KLEINSTEIN	APPLES AND DATES
#3	1	1	COMEDY STORE	COMEDY STORE
#4	9	11	AVTIPUS	THE WEATHERMAN KNOWS
#5	8	34	RITA	THE GRAND LOVE
#6	10	6	ANNIE LENNOX	MEDUSA
#7	7	15	FILM SOUND TRACK	PULP FICTION
#8	11	3	NURIT GIRON	CLASSICA
#9	9	26	Cranberries	NO NEED TO ARGUE
#10	1	1	TIPPEX	YOUR LIFE IN A BIG PITA
#11	/	1	VARIOUS ARTISTS	NOW 30
#12	25	2	BOAZ SHARABI	STRENGTH TO CONTINUE
#13	/	1	MEIR ARIEL	CHARCOAL DRAWING
#14	22	8	BOAZ SHARABI	YOU ARE THE NIGHT TO ME
#15	3	8	MONIKA SEX	WOUNDS AND KISSES

Tower Records' top-selling albums for the previous week. RE - re-entry



## BUSINESS &amp; FINANCE

TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 1995

## Survey: Economy activity still up

ECONOMIC activity continued to expand in the first quarter of the year, albeit at a slower rate than in the previous quarter, according to the quarterly company survey conducted by the Bank of Israel's research department.

Growth was most significant in the industrial and construction sectors.

Industrial firms experienced some seasonal slowdown, but adjusting for this activity was strong. The trading sector reported stable sales, after a surge in the previous quarter, while construction companies continued to

## Industrial, building sectors lead way

NEIL COHEN

grow rapidly.

The hotel sector reported stability, while the transportation and communication sectors showed modest growth.

In the industrial sector, mid-sized and large firms reported significant growth, while small companies slowed down.

Food and beverage companies performed well as did those in the chemicals and rubber and plastics

industries. These sectors make up 30 percent of the country's industrial exports.

Other sectors reported increased output, albeit at lower levels of growth.

A large percentage of construction firms said they had an increase in work, most notably a higher number of building starts. Output prices continued to rise in dollar terms, although, according to the

central bank, it was unclear how this translated into shekel terms given the dollar's weakness.

The hotel sector was fairly stable compared with the same quarter last year. Most hotel companies said there had been no change in occupancy rates, and the number of stays by local tourists had fallen. Bookings for the next quarter, however, were higher than last year.

There was little change reported in air transport activity, while ground transport was up, with the exception of public transport, which was unchanged.

## Shohat blasts panel for pay increase to judges

NEIL COHEN

FINANCE Minister Avraham Shohat lashed out at the Knesset Finance Committee yesterday for granting the country's judges pay increases of between 70 percent and 90%.

"I regret the Finance Committee's decision to raise the judges' salaries by 70-90%," Shohat wrote Finance Committee chairman Gedalya Gal (Labor). "I expressed my fierce opposition to these salary raises, as did the [Treasury] Wages Director and the representative of the Budgets Division."

"In my opinion, implementing this decision could lead to the reopening of several wage agreements, since a number of posts have their pay linked to that of the judges."

"Because of these grave ramifications, I would ask you to hold a further discussion of the subject in the committee with a view to change fundamentally your decision."

Shohat also noted that he would work to sever the link between judges' pay and that of public servants of similar rank.

As a result, he wrote, "I would ask you to delay your decision for a number of weeks to enable me to achieve this severance and thus prevent the damage expected as a result of the Finance Committee's decision."

Gal responded immediately. He and fellow committee member Avraham Poraz (Meretz) tabled a motion severing the link between judges' pay and that of other civil servants.

## 'Kibbutz lands to be sold by the book'

KIBBUTZ lands released as part of the latest debt arrangement agreement will be marketed strictly according to the rules of the Israel Lands Administration, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said yesterday.

He said his agreement to hold a work meeting with the Contractors Association did not mean he accepts the organization's request to acquire the kibbutz lands directly.

Shohat added the administration would identify the lands to be sold and set their sale date in accordance with planning policy and prevailing procedures.

Neil Cohen

## Eitan Raff gets the nod as new Leumi chairman

NEIL COHEN and GALIT LIPKIS BECK

BANK Leumi announced yesterday that Eitan Raff will serve as its new chairman.

Following the nomination, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and Bank of Israel Supervisor of Banks Ze'ev Abeles met, as required by law, with a committee, headed by Judge Eli Natan, that approved Leumi's decision.

Shohat and Abeles added that Raff was a good choice.

A Treasury spokesman said Shohat intends to continue with Leumi's privatization, which has been stalled since Edmond Saffra's withdrawal from bidding for the bank earlier this year. The spokesman said that shortly after Pessah, Shohat would hold discussions concerning the resumption of the sale process.

Raff has served in various public positions, including as economic counselor in the Israeli Embas-

sy in Washington and as the Finance Ministry's accountant-general from 1979 to 1983. He was chairman of Paz Oil from 1983 to 1987, and then was managing director of the investment company Wolfson-Clores-Mayer, where he also served as a consultant. In addition, he was chairman of the map company Carta and the government venture capital company Yozma.

Raff also has experience in the banking field. When Gad Ze'evi gained control of Maritime Bank in 1989, he appointed Raff as chairman. After Ze'evi sold his controlling stake in the bank to a consortium headed by Michael Steinhardt and Shimon Topper, Raff served as active deputy chairman under Topper, who was the bank's chairman.

Raff has a masters degree in economics and business administration from the Hebrew University.

## Jeunesse Cosmetics Paris '94 profits drop 47%

RACHEL NEIMAN

JEUNESSE Cosmetics Paris announced a 47 percent decrease in annual profits to NIS 1.8 million, from NIS 3.44m. in 1993. Earnings per share fell to NIS 0.25, from NIS 0.45, and annual revenues were NIS 31.74m. compared with NIS 23.6m. in the previous year.

Fourth-quarter net profits rose to NIS 2.6m., from NIS 1.84 in 1993. Quarterly revenues increased to NIS 13m., from NIS 7.3 in the previous year.

Jeunesse, a direct marketing cosmetics firm, owns subsidiaries Jeunesse Cosmetics Inc., which specializes in direct marketing to the US market, Dama Cosmetics, which supplies the professional salon market, and Jeunesse Agencies and Trade, which deals in the development of cosmetic products. Nescar, a joint venture between Jeunesse and Carline (PharmAgis), is an 18% shareholder in Ziv Litho-Offset, which manufactures quality packaging for cosmetics and pharmaceuticals.

## 'Citrus product makers aren't adjusting to market'

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

COMPLAINTS by citrus products industries of a shortage in citrus fruit and fears of the collapse of sector factories reflect the failure of firms to adjust to new market conditions, secretary-general of the Citrus Growers Board, Yossi Ingar, said yesterday.

Ingar said that until recently, factories have succeeded at the expense of citrus growers, who have been forced to sell produce to the industry at loss-making prices. But in the past year, the sector has experienced a turnaround as growers have entered new markets, getting reasonable prices for citrus products, including low quality produce.

"Citrus growers receive about \$130 per ton of fruit from the eastern European market. Indus-

try is capable of paying only \$40 per ton," Ingar said. "Even if fruit designated for industry were to receive a temporary government subsidy similar to that given on exported fruit, industrial prices would remain far behind export prices. It won't be profitable for growers to supply fruit which can be exported," he said.

"Government aid to exports is very low. Is there any reason why citrus growers should subsidize industry?" he asked.

Ingar called on the citrus products industries to raise the prices they give growers, in line with export prices.

"We are in a different situation this season, which I hope will continue in future," he said.

## Tourist firm that goes with the Zionist flow

HAIM SHAPIRO

WHEN it was founded, Peltours was an arm of the Zionist movement. Today, the firm is still concerned with promoting travel to here. But now that it is being run more like a business, the company handles more Israelis going abroad than tourists coming in, according to Stanley Lewis, chairman of the board and Peltours' main shareholder.

The company was established in 1920 by the Anglo-Palestine Bank, a subsidiary of the Jewish Colonial Trust, which, in turn, was the financial arm of the World Zionist Organization. Its aim was to provide travel arrangements for immigrants and for the few tourists of that time.

"It is unique because it participated in the renaissance of Israel. It has grown with the development of Israel," Lewis said last week, shortly before taking part in Peltours' 75th anniversary celebration at the Jerusalem International Convention Center.

Today, he said, one cannot

view Israel in terms of idealism. It is a normal country. "I don't think it wants that kind of connotation," he said.

From a tourism point of view, the country now has a highly sophisticated infrastructure. Tourist development has continued despite the wars and terror, and Israel continues to attract visitors because of what it has to offer, he added.

Lewis, born in South Africa, now lives in England.

Today, Peltours has offices in Israel and the United Kingdom as well as representatives worldwide. Company officials deal with the Far East, the Spanish-speaking market, the French-speaking market, the German-speaking market, and, of course, the English-speaking market.

The company employs about 200 people who handle nearly 100,000 travelers a year. This year's turnover is expected to reach \$100 million, according to Lewis.

About 60 percent of Peltours'



Lewis: Peltours is unique because it participated in the country's renaissance.

incoming tourists are not Jewish, but the particular market mix varies from country to

country, he said.

Among the company's regular clients is Beth Shalom, a Swiss-based group of Protestant supporters of Israel, who bring 600 to 800 visitors every two years.

In England, Peltours operates Orient Tours, a subsidiary which specializes in promoting pilgrimages by non-Jews, including a group of cyclists who visit here regularly to take part in rallies to raise charity.

Peltours has branches that specialize in charter travel and incentives, an area which Lewis believes has particular promise. The firm also operates a conference organizing branch.

The Peltours name has enormous recall value, Lewis said. "It is well-known and well-respected."

Technological growth represents the major future development for the firm, he said. There are software programs which can make it possible for a travel agent to book and confirm a hotel reservation within minutes.

"Our job is to be part of it," he added.

## Times Warner sells 51% of Six Flags for \$1b.

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Time Warner Inc. said yesterday it sold a majority of its Six Flags amusement park for \$1 billion in cash and assumed debt, trying to cut down on the borrowings that resulted in yet another quarterly loss for the media giant.

Time Warner reported a first-quarter net loss of \$47 million, or 13 cents a share, a slight narrowing \$51m. loss the prior year. Revenues rose to \$1.8 billion, from \$1.6b.

The sale of Six Flags to an investment group led by Boston Ventures brought to \$1.1b. the amount Time Warner has raised for debt reduction since February, when it announced its strategy of selling non-core businesses.

Under the terms of the agreement, Time Warner will receive \$200m. in cash and transfer \$800m. in debt to Six Flags while keeping a 49 percent stake that maintains it as the company's largest single shareholder.

The transaction will make Six Flags an independent entity while maintaining membership in the Time Warner family, the company said.

The transaction is expected to close in the second quarter. "We will be able to participate in the future growth of this key asset and have co-management responsibility with Boston Ventures," Chairman and CEO Gerald Levin said in a statement.

There are currently ten Six Flags parks at

seven locations throughout the country, primarily in the top ten metropolitan areas. Annual attendance is now about 22m. and revenue is over \$550m.

Time Warner said 85% of Americans are within a day's drive of one of the Six Flags parks.

The company's shares were trading at \$37.125, up 87.5 cents, early yesterday on the New York Stock Exchange.

The New York-based company is the world's leading media and entertainment company, with interests in magazine and book publishing, recorded music and music publishing, filmed entertainment, broadcasting and theme parks, and cable television and cable television programming.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

**Tayelet Hotel to be sold:** Mediterranean Hotels will sell all holdings in Netanyahu's Tayelet Hotel for \$2.6m. to an unidentified third party. Some \$850,000 will be paid in cash, with the remainder to be paid by releasing Mediterranean Hotels from its obligations to the Tayelet group.

**'Elevator company liable for tourist's injury':** Yona Hotels has responded to news of a NIS 3.7m. lawsuit filed against it and Electra Elevators by a US citizen. An article published in a local Jerusalem paper said the former hotel guest had been injured in an elevator accident in 1988 at the Jerusalem Gate Hotel, owned by a subsidiary of Yona Hotels.

The company said it had only learned of the suit through the article and had not yet examined the matter thoroughly, but an initial examination of its insurance policy had shown the elevator was under warranty by Electra.

Yona's legal advisers feel the company, therefore, has no obligation to pay, should compensation be decreed by the court. "In any case, the suit is exaggerated out of all proportion."

**Naphtha to pump \$10m into electricity venture:** Naphtha is in advanced negotiations with a second party to establish a US partnership to produce electric power here and abroad. Naphtha estimates its initial investment in the joint venture will be \$10m.

**Intel expanding in Jerusalem:** Intel International has decided to expand production at its Jerusalem facility. The \$24m. investment in both space and equipment is expected to create new jobs.

**Chambers of Commerce disapprove of Friday bank holiday:** The Chambers of Commerce issued a statement yesterday saying that "the closure of bank branches on Friday or Sunday will damage the commercial sectors." It went on to say that "for this reason, care should be taken to continue service six days a week, as in the past, even if the workers themselves work a five-day week." Last week, Bank of Israel Supervisor of Banks Ze'ev Abeles proposed the banks' work week be shortened to match those of banks abroad.

**Tadiran gets approval for ISDN telephone exchange:** Bezeq has granted approval for the first time to a private telephone exchange that uses integrated services digital networks (ISDN). Approval was granted to Tadiran Telecommunications for its Coral Power model, which will be installed at Sciter's offices in Herzliya.

ISDN allows video, still pictures, voice, and data to be transmitted simultaneously over a single phone line. The Coral Power exchange contains ISDN hardware as an integral part of the equipment and allows the user to dispatch the various media throughout the organization.

According to Tadiran, it is the only telephone exchange in Israel that uses ISDN and was developed according to European standards.

Some 500 ISDN lines are currently operating in the country and the number is expected to grow significantly among business clients.

## WORLD BRIEFS

**Clinton committed to strong dollar:** The Clinton administration is committed to a strong dollar and is working hard to position the US economy for the long term, Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin said yesterday.

"We do believe very strongly that a strong dollar is in our interest," he said.

Rubin said he was reserving final judgement on an emergency economic package unveiled by Japan last week as Tokyo has promised further details on the plan in a couple of months. *Reuters*

**Luxottica buys US Shoe:** What began as a hostile takeover bid has ended in a friendly agreement for Italian eyewear maker Luxottica Group SpA to acquire US Shoe Corp. for \$1.4 billion.

The companies announced the \$28-per-share deal late Sunday. The boards of both firms still must approve the transaction.

Luxottica, a Milan-based maker of sunglasses and eyeglass frames, has said it probably would keep only the LensCrafters optical products business and sell US Shoe's footwear and women's apparel operations. *AP*

**Lyondell Petrochemical Co. said yesterday it agreed to buy Occidental Chemical Corp.'s high-density polyethylene business for \$350 million.**

Assets to be acquired include resin production plants at Victoria and Matagorda, Texas, the rights to the Alathon trademark, and a research and development facility. *Reuters*

**China's lumbering state enterprises averaged industrial growth of 6.8 percent from 1992 to 1994, a sign of reviving health, but poor management was exacerbating their problems, Xinhua news agency said yesterday.** *Reuters*

## ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (184.85)				
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	5.57%	5.50%	5.57%	
Pound sterling (£100,000)	4.62%	5.00%	5.52%	
German mark (DM 250,000)	3.12%	3.25%	3.75%	
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	2.25%	2.25%	2.75%	
Yen (10 million yen)	2.25%			

(Please note higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (144.95)				
CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates*
Currency basket	Buy	Buy	Buy	
U.S. dollar	3.4235	3.4785	—	3.4908
German mark	2.8284	2.9737	2.87	2.9840
Pound sterling	2.1043	2.1382	2.08	2.1194
French franc	4.7062	4.7801	4.62	4.7398
Japanese yen (100)	0.6031	0.6120	0.59	0.6096
Dutch guilder	3.4808	3.5472	3.45	3.5478
Swiss franc	1.6630	1.7134	1.65	1.7184
Swedish krona	2.5500	2.5821	2.50	2.5676
Norwegian krona	0.4010	0.4075	0.39	0.4043
Denmark krona	0.4705	0.4781	0.46	0.4740
Finland mark	0.5359	0.5436	0.52	0.5403
Canadian dollar	0.6859	0.6940	0.67	0.6883
Australian dollar	2.1359	2.1704	2.07	2.1584
S. African rand	0.8114	0.8202	0.79	0.8001
Belgian franc (10)	1.0248	1.0426	1.03	1.0416
Austrian schilling (10)	1.0412	1.0612	1.05	1.0616
Italian lira (1000)	2.9915	3.0288	2.94	3.0130
Jordanian dinar	1.7108	1.7384	1.68	1.7257
Egyptian pound	—	—	4.15	4.3887
EU	—	—	0.83	0.9037
Irish punt	3.8755	3.9281	—	3.9100
Spanish peseta (100)	4.7806	4.8879	4.70	4.8171
	2.3896	2.4078	2.32	2.3891

\* These rates vary according to bank. \*\* Bank of Israel.

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## FIBA wants to jazz up Final Four

ZARAGOZA, Spain (AP) — What to do about dull, low-scoring games in the European Final Four?

Two abysmal semifinal games and a final that wasn't exactly a classic made this year's championship tournament for European clubs something of a let-down. Shooting percentages were low and there was too much bumping-and-grinding in the paint.

"We had a full house, all the eyes of Europe were on us," Boris Stankovic, who has run world basketball's governing body FIBA for almost two decades, said after the semifinals. "They didn't see very much. We need a show, a game that's relatively high-scoring."

In last week's semis, won 62-49 by Real Madrid over Limoges and 58-52 by Olympiakos over Panathinaikos, overall shooting percentages hovered around an embarrassing 30 percent. Tight defenses and nerves seemed to overwhelm even good shooters.

"People come to see a game and not a wrestling match," NBA commissioner David Stern said. "This happens in the NBA sometimes, often in important games where the play is slower and the shooting percentages are lower."

Thursday's championship game, a 73-61 victory for Real Madrid over Olympiakos, was a better show. The game was quick-paced and generally well-played, but shooting was at best average — in the 40-percent range — and the champion won with fewer than 75 points for the sixth straight year.

Last year, the NBA responded to the low-scoring, heavy-contact championship series between the Houston Rockets and New York Knicks by changing the rules and opening up the game. Faced with the same problem, Stankovic is thinking about some changes of his own, such as doing away with the single-elimination format.

"I think we need a playoff system so it doesn't all come down to one game," Stankovic said. "I'm quite sure the play would improve. It's very seldom we have a good game in the Final Four — nobody wants to take risks."

Stankovic said a playoff system might be installed in the "next two or three years" if free dates could be found in a tight calendar. He also admitted his opinion was not unanimous within FIBA.

Such a revamp would also involve changing from the present neutral-court concept to a home-and-home series.

"We're open to changes, but only when we feel the time is right and it's good for the sport," FIBA spokesman Florian Wamlinger said.

Stankovic said there was also talk of reducing the shot clock from 30 seconds to 24. Plus, as basketball's popularity continues to grow in Europe, the quality of play is bound to improve.

"Maybe this generation of players is not good enough," Stankovic joked. "We don't want to create a real revolution, but rather an evolution."

# Long's layup lifts Hawks; Bulls top Knicks

CHARLOTTE (AP) — Grant Long got a layup with three-tenths of a second left Sunday, giving the Atlanta Hawks a 94-93 win over the Charlotte Hornets.

Atlanta erased an 11-point lead in the third quarter with the help of Mookie Blaylock, who got 12 points in the period. His 3-point shot with one minute to play tied the score 92-92.

Charlotte missed five of six free throws down the stretch and clung to a 93-92 lead when the Hawks got the ball back. Blaylock dribbled past the time line to the right wing, where he passed to Long, who maneuvered between two defenders for the winning basket.

Bulls 111, Knicks 90  
Scottie Pippen scored 25 of his 29 points in the first half, making sure host Chicago wouldn't need magnificence from Michael Jordan.

Jordan, who scored 35 points in a 113-111 victory at New York two weeks ago, had 28 points on 8-of-19 shooting.

Pippen, who hadn't played since last Tuesday because of the flu, shot

11-of-13 in the first half, when Chicago took a 67-47 lead.

Toni Kukoc added 20 points and 10 assists for the Bulls, who have won nine of their last 10. Charles Smith scored 22 points and Patrick Ewing 17 for the Knicks, who had a five-game winning streak snapped.

Spurs 112, Nuggets 109 (OT)  
David Robinson scored 42 points as visiting San Antonio moved one step closer to securing home court advantage throughout the playoffs.

The Spurs led 110-107 when Avery Johnson fouled Denver's Greg Grant on a 3-point attempt with 4.8 seconds left. But Grant missed the third foul shot.

Pacers 114, Timberwolves 75  
Host Indianapolis moved closer to its first division championship with a trouncing of the Minnesota Timberwolves in their most lopsided victory this season.

The victory gave Indiana 50 wins in a season for the first time since joining the league and put the Pacers 1 1/2 games ahead of Charlotte in the Central Division with three games to go. The Hornets lost ground by falling to Atlanta 94-93 Sunday.

The Pacers can clinch the division with any combination of two victories or two Charlotte losses.

Rik Smith led the Pacers with 22 points and Derrick McKey added 20.

## EASTERN CONFERENCE

### Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
*Orlando	55	28	.705	—
*New York	52	26	.687	3
Boston	34	44	.438	21
Miami	31	47	.397	24
New Jersey	28	50	.359	27
Philadelphia	23	55	.294	32
Washington	19	59	.244	36

### Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
*Indiana	50	29	.633	—
*Charlotte	48	30	.615	1.5
*Chicago	44	34	.564	5.5
*Cleveland	41	37	.526	8.5
*Atlanta	40	38	.513	9
Milwaukee	31	47	.397	18.5
Detroit	27	51	.344	22.5

## WESTERN CONFERENCE

### Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
*San Antonio	58	20	.744	—
*Utah	50	28	.718	2
*Houston	48	32	.652	12
Denver	38	40	.487	20
Dallas	36	43	.449	23
Minnesota	21	57	.269	37

### Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
*Seattle	55	22	.714	—
*Phoenix	53	23	.705	—
*L.A. Lakers	48	31	.608	8
Portland	40	37	.519	15
Sacramento	37	41	.474	18.5
Golden State	25	53	.321	30.5
L.A. Clippers	16	62	.205	38.5

\*clinched playoff berth

SUNDAY'S RESULTS: Atlanta 94, Charlotte 93; San Antonio 112, Denver 109 (OT); Indiana 114, Minnesota 75; Chicago 111, New York 90; LA Lakers 125, Dallas 111.



DOING THEIR THINGS — Michael Jordan (1) draws a crowd and Patrick Ewing drives through the traffic in Sunday's game which the Bulls won, 111-90. (AP)

## Whither Nolan Richardson?

FAYETTEVILLE (AP) — Now that life has returned to more or less normalcy after his team's NCAA championship loss to UCLA, Arkansas coach Nolan Richardson talked about all the possibilities that lie ahead.

He spoke of losing Corliss Williamson to the NBA and the likelihood of Scottie Thurman going as well, and why he might be tempted to join them. He talked of retiring in the not-too-distant future. And he mentioned the talented newcomers who will be playing for the Razorbacks next season.

There is no bitterness in Richardson's voice when speaking about his team which, in two seasons, had 63 victories, won one NCAA tournament and finished second in another.

"I told them if I could go 32-7 every year I'd be a happy man for the rest of my career," Richardson said.

Even though Williamson and Thurman, who had miserable games in the 89-78 loss to UCLA, said they intended to come back for their senior season because they didn't want to end their Arkansas careers on such a sour note, Richardson understood that those words were spoken in the emotion of the moment.

By the end of April, he hopes Thurman will have made a decision. Whether he recommends he skips his senior season to turn pro will depend on how much money he can get.

"He's accomplished quite a bit," Richardson said. "In the three years he and Williamson played, they won a lot of basketball games for the University of Arkansas. It's a matter to me of what's being offered at this stage of the game for those two kids."

As for Richardson's own future, he repeated that he'd listen to offers from the NBA primarily because of the money involved. He acknowledged that it would be difficult for him to handle the egos of those

who play professional basketball.

"But sometimes they pay you enough to deal with those egos," he said.

Besides, Richardson said, there would be the challenge of trying to succeed at the NBA level after his success in the high school, junior college and major college ranks.

Richardson said no NBA team has contacted him this year, but added, "I'm sure there's some interest in me."

If Richardson stays, he could lose his top two assistants, Mike Anderson and Brad Dunn. Anderson is a candidate for the coaching job at Tulsa, where he went to school and played under Richardson. Dunn is known to want a NCAA Division I job and could well get one, Richardson said.

If the assistant coaches leave and if Thurman goes to the NBA, Richardson still has plenty to look forward to at Arkansas. His incoming recruiting class is considered one of the best in the country.

It includes guards Jesse Pate and Marcus Saxon of Chippola Junior College in Florida. Pate was the nation's leading junior-college scorer at 33.5 points per game. Saxon averaged 23.5 points and 7 assists per game.

There are two other junior-college transfers, 6-10 Kareem Poole of Tyler, Texas JC, and 6-4 leaper Antwon Hall of Barton County, Kansas JC. And two of the country's top prep players have signed with the Razorbacks, 6-7 Derek Hood from Kansas City, and 6-3 shooting guard Pat Bradley of Everett, Massachusetts.

And the pressure to win will continue.

"Even though you're starting all over again, they rank your recruiting high so the expectations continue to remain high," he said. "I don't see our expectations dropping very much. It won't be as intense maybe, but it will be there."

## Rangers come from behind, edge Islanders for 3rd straight

UNIONDALE, NY (AP) — Sergei Zubov scored two third-period goals, leading the Rangers to a come-from-behind victory as the New York Rangers won their third straight, a 3-2 victory over the New York Islanders Sunday.

Kevin Lowe had the other Ranger goal as the defending Stanley Cup champions won for only the second time at Nassau Coliseum in their last 19 tries (2-14-3).

Kirk Muller and Marty McInnis scored for the Islanders against Mike Richter, who stopped 18 shots.

Blues 6, Red Wings 5  
Brett Hull scored four goals for the first time in his career and defenseman Rick Zombo scored his first goal in 16 months for the game-winner as host St. Louis cooled off Detroit.

Hull has 23 career hat-tricks — third among active players behind Wayne Gretzky (49) and Mario Lemieux (31) — but has often passed up chances for more. This time Hull couldn't let up, because the Red Wings have the NHL's best record and are the hottest team.

St. Louis also survived an injury to goalie Curtis Joseph to end the Red Wings' six-game winning streak and club-record seven-game road winning streak.

Panthers 4, Lightning 1  
Brian Skrudland had two goals and an assist as host Florida broke out of

its offensive slump and moved two points ahead of Tampa Bay.

The bruising game was complete with three fights, two game misconducts and numerous skirmishes.

Skrudland broke a scoreless tie at 5:32 in the third and had an assist on Mike Hough's goal 17 seconds later. Florida's Bill Lindsay scored a goal at 11:31 and Skrudland scored his 100th career goal at 14:18.

Stars 2, Blackhawks 0  
Mike Donnelly and Dave Gagner scored power-play goals and Andy Moog stopped 24 shots for his 21st career shutout as host Dallas strengthened its playoff position.

The Stars are seventh in the NHL's Western Conference with 36 points, three behind sixth-place Vancouver.

Flyers 4, Penguins 3 (OT)  
Rod Brind'Amour's goal at 1:30 of overtime capped a wild finish for host Philadelphia.

Philadelphia trailed 3-2 with 48.3 seconds remaining in regulation, but had a 6-on-4 advantage after goalie Ron Hextall was pulled and Pittsburgh's Troy Murray was given a major boarding penalty.

Eric Desjardins' drive from the right point kicked off the stick of Michael Reberg and bounced by Ken Wreggett with 19.9 seconds remaining to force OT.

Sharks 2, Kings 0  
Arnyas live shut out visiting Los Angeles for the second time this season, stopping 22 shots as San Jose took over the eighth Western Conference playoff spot.

Jeff Odgers and Sergei Makarov scored for the Sharks, who have 34 points — two less than seventh-place Dallas. The Kings have 33 and Winni-

peg 32. Both California teams have nine games left. San Jose will play six at home, Los Angeles four.

Sabres 1, Senators 1  
Pat LaFontaine scored one goal and set up another as Buffalo broke a four-game losing streak.

LaFontaine, who scored his 400th goal in Buffalo's last game, broke a 1-1 tie with his 10th goal of the season with the Sabres on the power play. He tipped a return pass from Donald Audette between the legs of Ottawa goalie Don Beaupre about 2 1/2 minutes into the third period.

Dominik Hasek stopped 24 shots for the Sabres, who had not won in nearly two weeks.

Devils 3, Whalers 2  
Scott Stevens scored with 1:03 remaining in the third period to give New Jersey a home victory.

Stevens' shot from just inside the blue line glanced off the skate of Hartford defenseman Chris Pronger and past goaltender Sean Burke.

The victory extended the Devils' unbeaten streak to three (2-0-1). The Whalers saw their two-game winning streak come to an end.

Nordiques 4, Capitals 2  
Bob Bessen had a goal and an assist and Quebec extended its unbeaten streak to five games and improved its league-best home record.

Bessen's 13th goal, at 7:44 of the third period, gave Quebec a 3-1 lead. Washington's Keith Jones best goaltender Stephane Fiset with a power-play goal 2:31 later to make it 3-2, but Scott Young added an empty-net goal for Quebec with just under one second left in the game.

Quebec is 17-1-3 at the Coliseum.

## EASTERN CONFERENCE

### Atlantic Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	23	13	4	50	131	113
New Jersey	20	14	7	47	117	102
Washington	17	16	7	41	102	96
NY Rangers	19	19	3	39	109	105
Florida	18	19	5	38	93	105
Tampa Bay	15	22	3	33	93	114
NY Islanders	12	23	5	29	101	134

### Northeast Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
*Quebec	28	9	4	60	189	113
Pittsburgh	26	12	2	54	159	129
Boston	22	16	3	43	118	100
Buffalo	17	18	6	40	105	98
Hartford	17	18	5	39	110	115
Montreal	15	20	5	35	104	130
Ottawa	4	30	5	13	84	143

## WESTERN CONFERENCE

### Central Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
*Detroit	29	8	3	61	153	89
St. Louis	23	12	3	49	145	110
Chicago	19	17	3	41	129	99
Toronto	17	18	7	41	119	119
Dallas	18	19	6	39	110	102
Winnipeg	13	20	8	32	128	146

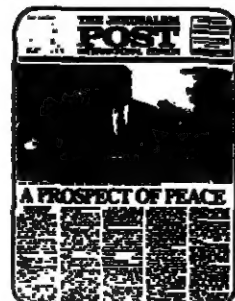
### Pacific Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
*Calgary	21	15	5	47	141	116
Vancouver	18	18	2	39	125	122
San Jose	19	21	2	39	125	122
Los Angeles	13	19	7	33	125	150
Anaheim	13	22	4	30	99	139
Edmonton	13	22	3	29	107	148

\*clinched playoff berth

SUNDAY'S RESULTS: NY Rangers 3, NY Islanders 2; Philadelphia 4, Pittsburgh 3 (OT); Florida 4, Tampa Bay 1; St. Louis 6, Detroit 5; Dallas 2, Chicago 0; San Jose 2, Los Angeles 0; Buffalo 2, Ottawa 1; New Jersey 3, Hartford 2; Quebec 4, Washington 2.

WELCOME TO ISRAEL!  
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# Man Utd losing its grip

## But hope lingers as Blackburn Rovers lose

LONDON (Reuters) - Manchester United saw its Premier League title slip further from its grasp during a 0-0 home draw with relegation-threatened Chelsea yesterday.

Chelsea, which won the corresponding fixture 1-0 last season, worked extremely hard in defense to hang on to a crucial point in its fight for top flight survival.

At the same time, it denied United two vital points in its bid to stay in touch with leaders Blackburn Rovers, who lost 3-2 at home against Manchester City late last night.

It was United's second successive 0-0 draw at home following the goalless match with Leeds United two weeks ago. In between it won 4-0 at already relegated Leicester City.

United is five points adrift of Blackburn Rovers with just four games to play.

At the bottom end of the table, Norwich City dropped into the relegation zone after a 1-0 defeat at Tottenham, which scored through England striker Teddy Sheringham in the 36th minute.

Arsenal eased its relegation worries with a 4-0 win at Aston Villa. England's Ian Wright and Wales' striker John Harrison scored two apiece.

Crystal Palace - yet another London side involved in the relegation struggle this season when four teams go down - remained fourth from bottom despite a 1-0 at Queens Park Rangers. Striker Iain Dowie scored in the 56th minute.

Palace was reliant on both Norwich and West Ham losing. But Dutchman Jerome Boere struck an injury-time equalizer for West Ham to give the Londoners a 1-1 draw at Ipswich, also already relegated, and keep its head just above water.

In a nail-biting finale at Old Trafford, Manchester United captain Steve Bruce headed the ball home near the end but a goal was disallowed because of offside.

Newcastle fell to its second successive defeat, 2-1 at home to Leeds, dropping to fifth place and seriously jeopardizing its chances of a place in the UEFA Cup next season.

All the goals came in a six-minute spell midway through the first half starting with Scotland captain Gary McAllister's 25th-minute penalty for Leeds.

Robbie Elliott equalized on the half hour only for Ghana's Tony Yeboah to hit the winner a minute later with his 10th goal since he joined Leeds from Eintracht Frankfurt in February.

Newcastle, third before its 2-0 defeat at Everton on Friday, has been overtaken by Nottingham Forest and Liverpool, which both won 2-0 yesterday.

Midfielder Ian Woan and striker Stan Collymore scored at Coventry to lift Forest three points clear of Newcastle.



HEAD ON - Nottingham Forest's Steve Chettle (back) goes for the ball with Coventry City's Mike March. (Reuters)

Liverpool went above Newcastle on goal difference after scoring in the last 15 minutes at home to Leicester through young player-of-the-year Robbie Fowler with his 31st goal of the season and veteran Ian Rush.

Leicester's defense crumbled after Mike Whitlow was sent off for a second bookable offense in the 71st minute.

Leeds, which held Blackburn 1-1 at home on Saturday, is sixth four points below Newcastle and four ahead of Tottenham.

England's Matthew Le Tissier and striker Ian Magilton scored for Southampton, whose 2-0 win away to Wimbledon considerably

eases its relegation worries.

With Ipswich and Leicester already doomed to relegation, the teams closest to joining them at present are Norwich, Crystal Palace and West Ham, who all have 42 points with the Hammers fifth from bottom - the last place above the relegation zone.

Palace, losing FA Cup semi-finalists, has the advantage of a match in hand - and three points if it wins it.

Everton, whose victories in its last two matches included a 4-1 rout of Tottenham in the FA Cup semi-final, only managed one point in a 0-0 draw away to Sheffield Wednesday.

**PREMIER LEAGUE:** Blackburn 2, Manchester City 3; Aston Villa 0, Arsenal 4; Ipswich 1, West Ham 1; Liverpool 2, Leicester 0; Manchester United 0, Chelsea 0; Newcastle 1, Leeds 2; Nottingham Forest 2, Coventry 0; Queens Park Rangers 0, Crystal Palace 1; Sheffield Wednesday 0, Everton 0; Tottenham 1, Norwich 0; Wimbledon 0, Southampton 2.

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Blackburn	28	2	5	75	34	83
Man Utd	28	23	9	67	24	76
Notts Forest	28	20	10	67	40	70
Liverpool	27	13	8	61	30	67
Newcastle	26	19	10	61	41	67
Leeds	26	17	12	59	35	63
Tottenham	27	11	10	48	59	59
QPR	28	15	8	55	55	53
Wimbledon	28	15	7	48	53	52
Arsenal	28	13	10	59	49	49
Southampton	27	11	15	55	58	48
Manchester City	28	12	11	50	59	47
Sheff. Wed.	28	11	16	43	55	47
Chelsea	28	11	13	44	50	46
Coventry	28	11	13	44	50	46
Aston Villa	28	10	13	44	50	46
Everton	27	10	13	44	48	43
West Ham	27	11	9	37	38	42
Crystal Palace	28	10	12	34	52	42
Norwich	28	10	12	34	49	42
Leicester	28	8	9	25	40	33
Ipswich	28	8	9	25	40	33

**DIVISION ONE:** Bolton 1, Sunderland 0; Bristol City 1, West Bromwich Albion 0; Derby 5, Tranmere 0; Grimsby 1, Barnsley 0; Luton 0, Reading 1; Middlesbrough 1, Sheffield United 1; Port Vale 1, Bury 0; Portsmouth 2, Walsley 1; Swindon 0, Stoke 1; Wolves 2, Oldham 1.

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesbrough	42	22	10	63	37	77
Bolton	42	21	12	59	38	75
Tranmere	42	21	12	59	38	75
Wolverhampton	42	21	12	59	38	75
Reading	42	21	12	59	38	75
Barnsley	42	21	12	59	38	75
Derby	42	21	12	59	38	75
Sheffield United	42	21	12	59	38	75
Grimsby	42	21	12	59	38	75
Walsley	42	21	12	59	38	75
Swindon	42	21	12	59	38	75
Stoke	42	21	12	59	38	75
Oldham	42	21	12	59	38	75
Luton	42	21	12	59	38	75
Sheff. Wed.	42	21	12	59	38	75
Port Vale	42	21	12	59	38	75
West Brom	42	21	12	59	38	75
Southampton	42	21	12	59	38	75
Sheff. Wed.	42	21	12	59	38	75
Bury	42	21	12	59	38	75
Bristol City	42	21	12	59	38	75
Notts Forest	42	21	12	59	38	75

**DIVISION TWO:** Bradford 0, Rotherham 0; Cambridge United 1, Birmingham City 0; Cardiff 1, Shrewsbury 2; Chester 0, Crewe 1; Exeter City 1, Bury 1; Leyton Orient 0, Brentford 0; Oxford United 1, Peterborough 0; Plymouth 2, Swans 1; Wrexham 1, Stockport 0.

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brentford	42	24	9	78	33	81
Hull City	42	22	14	77	44	80
Birmingham	42	22	12	74	38	78
Bristol Rovers	42	20	15	75	38	75
Crewe	42	22	11	65	39	77
Oxford United	42	20	11	62	49	71
Wycombe	42	19	14	64	42	71
Hull	42	18	15	62	51	67
York	42	18	15	62	51	67
Swansea	42	17	14	54	42	65
Blackpool	42	17	10	52	52	61
Stockport	42	18	14	52	59	61
Wrexham	42	15	15	52	60	60
Bradford	42	16	11	57	52	59
Peterborough	42	15	14	51	57	54
Rotherham	42	13	15	49	47	54
Sheff. Wed.	42	13	14	56	58	53
Stamford	42	14	11	51	59	50
Camb. United	42	10	14	49	57	44
Bournemouth	42	10	11	21	42	41
Plymouth	42	11	11	38	78	41
Cardiff	42	11	11	38	78	41
Leyton Orient	42	8	8	29	72	29
Exeter	42	8	8	29	72	29
Cheltenham	42	4	11	28	84	23

**DIVISION THREE:** Barnet 1, Walsley 3; Carlisle 0, Hartlepool 1; Doncaster 1, Chesterfield 1; Fulham 1, Gillingham 0; Lincoln 3, Scunthorpe 3; Northampton 1, Colchester 1; Rochdale 0, Preston 1.

	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Carlisle	39	25	0	65	27	85
Chesterfield	39	22	11	58	33	77
Walsley	39	22	11	58	33	77
Bury	37	19	10	50	35	67
Preston	39	18	10	54	38	64
Walsley	39	18	10	54	38	64
Doncaster	39	16	10	53	36	58
Colchester	39	16	10	53	36	58
Scunthorpe	39	16	10	53	36	58
Fulham	39	16	10	53	36	58
Barnet	39	14	11	40	36	53
Lincoln	39	13	11	45	40	49
Wigan	39	13	11	45	40	49
Torquay	39	12	11	45	40	49
Rochdale	39	11	13	42	57	45
Hartlepool	39	11	13	42	57	45
Northampton	39	8	14	20	59	38
Darlington	39	8	14	20	59	38
Gillingham	39	8	14	20	59	38
Hartlepool	39	8	14	20	59	38
Exeter	39	8	14	20	59	38
Scunthorpe	39	7	9	21	43	28

c-clinched championship  
p-promoted for 1995-96  
r-relegated for 1995-96

# The grass is greener in Kansas City

## Royals take out artificial turf

KANSAS CITY (AP) - Where hard-baked artificial turf once aided fleet-footed Royals like Willie Wilson, Amos Otis and even Bo Jackson, a sweet-smelling, springy carpet of grass is taking root.

In the outfield, fly balls that used to die on the warning track will now sail over the fence for home runs.

Kansas City fans may be mad at striking players and a front office that gave away David Cone to save money, but they're probably about to fall in love all over again with Kauffman Stadium.

The \$1.7 million artificial turf carpet has been replaced by carefully manicured grass. The outfield fences have been lowered by three feet and moved in by as much as 10 feet.

But as striking as these changes are to the 22-year-old facility, they're bound to affect more than just the look and feel of the place. Exerting subtle differences in how the ball spins and bounces and carries, they will mean a different kind of team.

"I think most people will feel it gives the park a whole new personality," said famed groundskeeper George Toma.

From the time it opened in 1973 until the strike shut down baseball last August, the stadium was known almost as much for its spacious outfield dimensions and fast artificial turf as for its high-tech water fountains which beckoned from beyond the fences.

Year after year, Kansas City ranked near the bottom of the league in home runs and near the top in doubles and triples.

It was 410 to straightaway center field and 385 in the power alleys. Fly balls never tended to carry very well on muggy Midwest western nights anyway.

But line drives in the gaps would roll forever. Royals teams built for speed and not power specialized in turning singles into doubles and doubles into triples, thoroughly confounding heavy-footed visitors.

"They're all arms and legs, arms and legs," Earl Weaver

once fumed after his Orioles got swept three games in Royals Stadium, as it was called until 1993 when it was renamed for team founder Ewing Kauffman. "We hit three balls tonight, that are home runs in Baltimore."

If any team in baseball benefited from the strike of 1994, it was the Royals. The cancellation of the season gave Toma's crew extra weeks of good weather to rip up the rug and plant a mixture of five kinds of bluegrass and one kind of rye.

The grass was imported from Fort Collins, Colorado. The infield dirt, which is a mixture of topsoil and sand, also was given some extra care.

While the grass was being planted, the fences were being moved in 10 feet from left field bullpen to right field bullpen and lowered from 12 feet to nine.

Untouched were the 12-story electronic scoreboard, the five-year-old Sony JumboTron TV screen and 322-foot water fountains.

Meanwhile, Boston Red Sox slugger Jose Canseco is helping the plight of major league umpires. The locked-out umpires were attracting little attention with their informational picketing until Canseco hung a sign around his neck and joined them.

Eight umpires walked the picket lines before Boston's game against Texas. They wore signs that said "Scabs Go Home" and "Major League Umpires are Locked Out," and handed out leaflets that began "We love the great game of Baseball!"

Canseco said he didn't know the umpires would be picketing until he got a message in the clubhouse from American League umpire John Hirschbeck, a friend whom he has worked with on charity events. So the Red Sox designated hitter and designated attention-getter came out of the clubhouse to help out.

"You saw what the game was like without the real players," Canseco said. "It's going to be the same thing without the real umpires."

# Mac Haifa seeks glory in State Cup

ORI LEWIS

MACCABI Haifa continues its quest for soccer silverware when it takes on Second Division-Hapoel Kfar Sava in the State Cup quarter-finals at Kiryat Eliezer at 6 p.m. today.

Thaifaite faltered in their chase after league leaders Maccabi Tel Aviv at the weekend, losing to Hapoel Tel Aviv and finding themselves four points adrift with five rounds to go.

None of the other clubs in action today have a chance to gain league honors this season; three are struggling to avoid relegation.

Two other quarter-finals will be played today at 4 p.m.: Bnei Jerusalem hosts Ironi Ashdod while Hapoel Petah Tikva welcomes Maccabi Netanya.

The fourth match will be played at Kiryat Eliezer tomorrow at 6 p.m. when Hapoel Haifa hosts Bnei Yehuda.

In other news, Israel coach Shlomo Shafar named his squad for the European Championship Group One match away to Poland on April 25.

**GOALKEEPERS:** Ronit Ginzburg, Rafi Cohen. **DEFENDERS:** Marco Balad, Felix Hailon, Nir Klinger, Amir Shaleh, Alon Barzi, Moshe Giam, David Amislan. **MIDFIELDERS:** Tal Benin, Alon Hazon, Eyal Berkovic, Ronit Levy, Haim Reviva, Ronit Zohar. **FORWARDS:** Ronit Harel, Ofer Mizrahi, Ronit Rosenthal.

# Nditi takes 3rd straight Boston Marathon

BOSTON (Reuters) - Cosmas Nditi of Kenya yesterday won the 99th Boston Marathon, becoming the third runner to win it three years in a row.

Nditi, 25, shook off countryman Moses Tanni with two miles left and broke the tape at 2 hours 9 minutes 21 seconds.

Nditi joined Clarence DeMar (1923-24) and Bill Rodgers (1973-79-80) as the only people to win the world's oldest continuously run marathon three successive years.

Uta Pippig of Germany also repeated as champion, winning the women's competition easily in 2:25:11.

# Grand National covered in its Prime

SPORTSWATCH

ORI LEWIS

PRIME Sports registered another first this year with a live transmission of the Grand National from Aintree race course in Liverpool.

What makes this event great apart from the tradition - it has been run for over a century - is the difficulty of the course, which makes it almost impossible to predict the winner.

To have witnessed the runners and riders jump over the awesome fences gave one an idea of just how brave these jockeys are as they traverse the 4 1/2-mile course on their way to the winning post.

Hats off to Prime for relaying the BBC's live feed and the voice of legendary commentator Peter O'Sullivan, even if betting on the horses over here is more than a little difficult.

IBA's Channel 3 has begun live NBA broadcasts this week for a hungry local audience. Live NBA is long overdue, but it is also a long wait into the early hours of the morning. Add to that live cricket coverage of the Asia Cup and highlights of the West Indies-Australia match.

What would really keep me up the whole night is the World Snooker Championship currently being played in Sheffield.

Unfortunately, we have to rely on Sky's sports updates for the action, but their coverage on the news channel reminds me of Israel TV's tennis coverage in the old days, when the prime coverage of a tennis match would be the screening of the winning point.

# Romania beats Israel in Federation Cup

HEATHER CHAIT

ISRAEL'S women tennis team started disappointingly in the qualifying round of the Federation Cup's European zone in La Manga, Spain, losing yesterday to favorites Romania 2-0.

Israel's top player Anna Smashnova (45 in the WTA rankings) lost to Ruxandra Dragomir (63) and Hila Rosen was beaten by Katalena Krista (174).

Besides Romania, Israel has been drawn in the same group as Croatia and Belgium. The two top teams from the four competing groups will advance to the next round. From there, two nations will reach the main draw of the Federation Cup.

# S. Africa to open cricket academy

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) - South Africa this week opens a cricket academy aimed at developing promising players along lines pioneered by Australia.

The first members of the new academy gather at Rand Afrikaans University (RAU) today and the project officially opens on Thursday.

Academy head Clive Rice said yesterday the academy would cost 1.3 million rand (\$360,000) to run in its first year.

"Every aspect of the game will be catered for and we will be looking particularly at the psychological and physiological

make-up of the players," he said. Ali Bacher, managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA), said the academy's first year funding had been gleaned from three sources.

"The sponsors have put up 400,000 rand (\$111,000) and RAU are providing bed and board as well as training facilities worth at least the same amount," he said.

"In addition the UCBSA is providing 500,000 rand (\$139,000), a figure which shows just how important we think it is for the academy to be successful."

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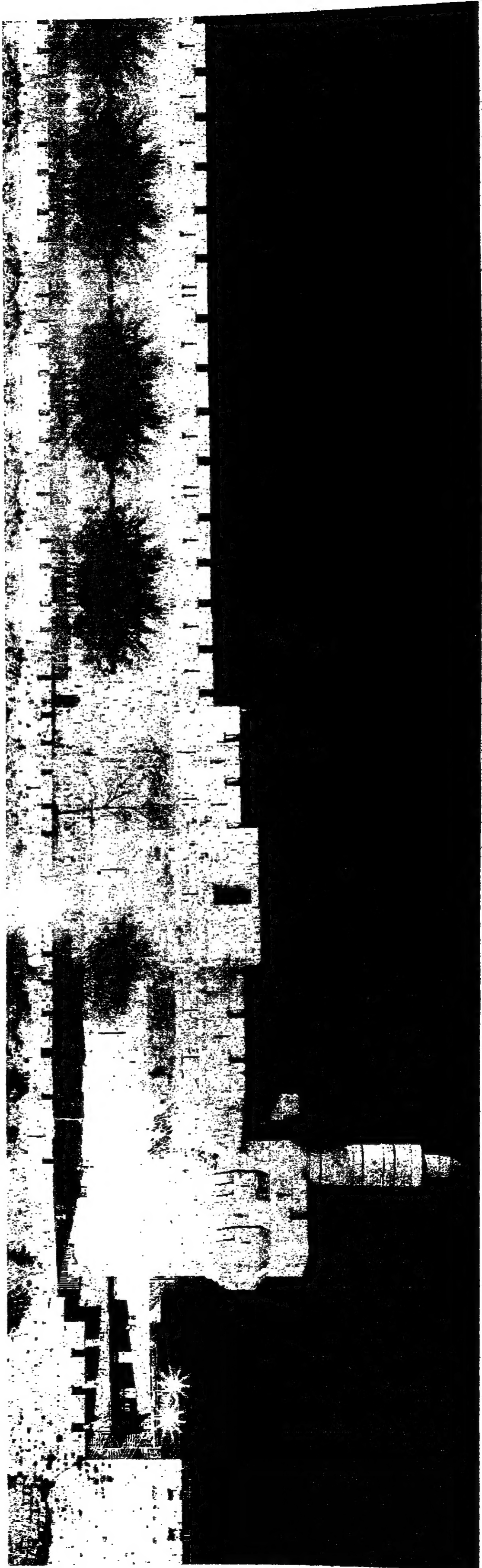
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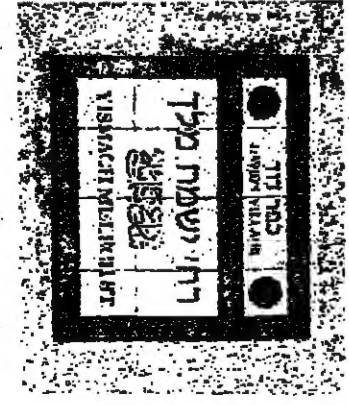
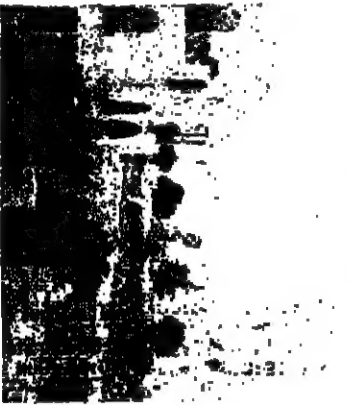
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**WEATHER**

Haifa 17-20  
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Jerusalem 15-18  
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Forecast: Cooler with chance of local rain.

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	LOW	HIGH	WIND	SEA
Amsterdam	15	18	10	4
Buenos Aires	15	20	10	4
Chicago	15	18	10	4
Frankfurt	15	18	10	4
Geneva	15	18	10	4
Hong Kong	15	18	10	4
London	15	18	10	4
Los Angeles	15	18	10	4
Madrid	15	18	10	4
Moscow	15	18	10	4
New York	15	18	10	4
Paris	15	18	10	4
Rome	15	18	10	4
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Vienna	15	18	10	4

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Mazra: Dorah Hayam, 209 Dorek Hayam, 371472.  
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Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) service in the area, around the clock.  
Medical help for tourists (in English) 177-022-8110  
Emergency First Aid, Jerusalem 013033, Tel Aviv 546111 (children) 6861113, Haifa 672222, Beersheba 281128, Netanya 625110, Karmel 588770, Kfar Sava 974555, Hadera 346769.  
Police hotlines for battered women 02-514111, 03-5461133 (also in Russian), 07-376310, 08-550508 (also in Amharic).  
Rapid Crime Center (24 hours), Tel Aviv 524819, 5449191 (men), Jerusalem 514455, Haifa 600111, Eilat 31977.  
The National Police Control Center at Ramat Hashikma 04-529205, for emergency calls 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning.

**CRITIC'S CHOICE**

**CLASSICAL MUSIC**

**MICHAEL AJZENSTADT**

HELMUTH Rilling leads the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra and his own Gachinger Kantorei in Bach's monumental *St. Matthew Passion* tonight at the Haifa Auditorium and Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv. Concert time of this very long opus is at 8 p.m.  
More Bach can be heard tonight at the Suzanne Dellal Center in Tel Aviv as the Pessach Bach festival reaches its conclusion with various programs starting at 8. At 10 p.m. comes the highlight, a concert with flutist Eyal Ein Haber and harpist Yulia Sverdlov, who are followed after the intermission by pianist Daniel Gortler.  
Joseph Swensen leads the Israel Chamber Orchestra in Copland's *Quiet City* and Beethoven's Third (*Eroica*) Symphony. Chen Zimbalista joins to perform Ami Ma'ayani's Concerto for Percussion and Eight Winds, Tonight in Kfar Sava, tomorrow at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center, Saturday at Netanya and Sunday at the Tel Aviv Museum. All at 8:30 p.m. except Saturday at 9 p.m.  
Beit Daniel is the site of an intimate chamber-music festival in the serene atmosphere of Zichron Ya'akov. Tonight (8) is an all-Mozart program featuring a sonata for piano for four hands, the oboe quartet, the trio for violin, viola and piano and a sonata for violin and piano. Tomorrow's program (8 p.m.) features music by Poulenc, Debussy, Ravel and Saint-Saens. Among the musicians are duo pianists Bracha Eden and Alexander Tamir, oboist Roni Gal-Ed and clarinetist Michel Lethiec.

**OPERA**

**MICHAEL AJZENSTADT**

THERE are only three more opportunities to catch Richard Jones's captivating production of Prokofiev's *The Love for Three Oranges* at the new opera house in Tel Aviv. This is an inventive feast for all the senses (olfactory included). Bring your children and grandchildren, too, because this fairy tale comes alive in a magical presentation. Tonight (8), Thursday (1) and Saturday (9).

**TELEVISION**

**PENNY STARR**

STAR Plus has been touting its new chat-show hostess. Here's a promo of Nikki on a yacht explaining why Bombay is like Hollywood. There's a promo of Nikki running around a fountain insinuating things about casting couches. Catch *Nikki Tonight* at 7 p.m. to find out what all the fuss is about.  
The first part of a two-part documentary airs on Channel 1 at 9:30 p.m. Called *Everything That Shook*, it looks at Czechoslovakia's aid to Israel in 1948. (Part 2 is scheduled for tomorrow at 10:15 p.m.)  
Now that Channel 2 is allowed more broadcast time, it doesn't go off the air till much later. That explains the late start of the classic musical comedy *Some Like It Hot*, with Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon in drag and Marilyn Monroe in dresses that barely fit her. It begins at 00:35 a.m.

**CINEMA**

**JERUSALEM**  
CINEMA THEATRE: *Battle of Potomac* 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101, 103, 105, 107, 109, 111, 113, 115, 117, 119, 121, 123, 125, 127, 129, 131, 133, 135, 137, 139, 141, 143, 145, 147, 149, 151, 153, 155, 157, 159, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 173, 175, 177, 179, 181, 183, 185, 187, 189, 191, 193, 195, 197, 199, 201, 203, 205, 207, 209, 211, 213, 215, 217, 219, 221, 223, 225, 227, 229, 231, 233, 235, 237, 239, 241, 243, 245, 247, 249, 251, 253, 255, 257, 259, 261, 263, 265, 267, 269, 271, 273, 275, 277, 279, 281, 283, 285, 287, 289, 291, 293, 295, 297, 299, 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, 313, 315, 317, 319, 321, 323, 325, 327, 329, 331, 333, 335, 337, 339, 341, 343, 345, 347, 349, 351, 353, 355, 357, 359, 361, 363, 365, 367, 369, 371, 373, 375, 377, 379, 381, 383, 385, 387, 389, 391, 393, 395, 397, 399, 401, 403, 405, 407, 409, 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2835, 2837, 2839, 2841, 2843, 2845, 2847, 2849, 2851, 2853, 2855, 2857, 2859, 2861, 2863, 2865, 2867, 2869, 2871, 2873, 2875, 2877, 2879, 2881, 2883, 2885, 2887, 2889, 2891, 2893, 2895, 2897, 2899, 2901, 2903, 2905, 2907, 2909, 2911, 2913, 2915, 2917, 2919, 2921, 2923, 2925, 2927, 2929, 2931, 2933, 2935, 2937, 29



# Fraud Squad may query Olmert

JERUSALEM Mayor Ehud Olmert may be summoned for questioning for allegedly firing one of his deputies, Meshulam Amit, for filing a complaint with police about financial wrongdoings at City Hall, police sources said yesterday.

"We need to determine whether we are just talking about a political fight, which we don't want to have anything to do with, or an attempt to alter an investigation, which is illegal," said a senior police source.

The National Fraud Squad has yet to determine whether to open an investigation into the original complaint filed by Amit, the sources said.

The complaint involves allegations that since 1989 the city has sold off properties illegally to raise cash for various projects, including the new City Hall building.

BILL HUTMAN

Documents Amit turned over last month to police allegedly show improper handling of tenders, falsified property-value estimates, and inside dealing by city officials.

"Olmert is throwing sand in the public's eyes, saying he didn't pressure me to withdraw my complaint, and claiming my complaint only involves wrongdoings under [former mayor Teddy] Kollek's administration," Amit said.

He said the material he turned over to police showed the wrongdoing under Kollek has continued since Olmert took over as mayor. Olmert's spokesman was unavailable for comment.

Kollek has no knowledge of the wrongdoings Amit alleges, a spokeswoman for the

former mayor said. However, if Amit knows something that Kollek doesn't, Kollek believes he is right in going to police, the spokeswoman added.

Olmert, meanwhile, received a major boost recently, when municipal coalition leaders unanimously backed his decision to fire Amit.

Coalition members have called for Amit to be sacked, on grounds he has harassed city officials with false allegations of wrongdoing, according to municipal sources.

Olmert has already stripped Amit of the portfolios he was given as deputy mayor. At a special council meeting scheduled for Sunday, Olmert is to request that the deputy-mayor title also be taken away from him.

Coalition members are completely behind Olmert, and the motion is expected to pass easily, according to the sources.

# Golan Druse mark Syrian independence

DAVID RUDGE

Northern region police spokesperson Supt. Uri Messer-Harel said that although some Syrian flags had been raised in the villages in the past

few days there were no major disturbances yesterday.

The atmosphere in the Druse villages was one of expectation with some residents expressing hope they would soon be reunited with their brethren on the Syrian side.

## Boy returned to Syria after crossing border

A SEVEN year-old Syrian boy who crossed the border into Israel in the Golan Heights region on Sunday morning was later returned to Syria.

The adventurous youngster was discovered wandering around on the Israeli side of the border by IDF troops. He was hungry and looking for shelter.

After being given food and treated by the soldiers, he was questioned and later returned to Syria through the auspices of the UN and the Red Cross.

It is not the first time that the border has been "infiltrated" by civilians from the Syrian side, although usually the intruders have been older.

D.R.



Lynda Levy (center), wife of Rabbi Stan Levy (right), blows a shofar at the start of an interfaith seder at Beit Shmuel in Jerusalem yesterday. Delores Grey from Los Angeles looks on.

## Multiple faiths partake in 'Freedom Seder'

BUDDHISTS, Moslems, Christians and Jews asked the four questions last night at a "Freedom Seder" organized at Beit Shmuel, the cultural and educational center of Israel's Reform Movement.

The seder was organized for the second year by the center in conjunction with the Freedom Festival of New York. Also participating in

HAIM SHAPIRO

the event were Hindus and Sufi Moslems.

According to Shmuel Bahagon, spokesman for Beit Shmuel, there has been considerable interest by non-Jews in the seder. Many, he said, had asked for a copy of the Haggadah in advance, so they could study the text.

During the seder, a representative of each faith was asked to give a special prayer in the spirit of the Pessah Holiday. In order to maintain the Halacha for observant Jews, the participants were asked not to eat hametz yesterday and only Jews poured the wine.

In keeping with environmental awareness, the seder meal was entirely vegetarian.

THE Labor Party yesterday threatened to take action against four of its MKs if they help the Likud pass legislation to prevent ceding the Golan Heights to Syria.

The legislation was tabled as a private member's bill by Likud MK Uzi Landau. The four Labor MKs, Avigdor Kahalani, Emanuel Zissman, Yoram Lass and Ya'acov Sheffi, originally proposed the same bill.

"If any of the four support the Landau bill or make it possible for it to squeak through, they will have to answer at the upcoming session of the party central com-

SARAH HONIG

mittee, which will decide on what sanction to employ against MKs who aid the opposition," Labor Party Secretary-General Nissim Zivli warned the Knesset members yesterday.

"Such MKs, it is safe to assume, will not be able to stand in the next primaries for the Labor list of Knesset candidates," Zivli added.

Labor recently forbade the four from submitting their legislation, which demands a special Knesset majority for any vote on territorial concessions on the Go-

lan, and a special majority in the proposed referendum on the Golan.

Landau yesterday took their bill and tabled it himself. "I want to see how far these four will go. I want to see how earnest they are in forging ahead with efforts to prevent the dangerous withdrawal from the Golan on which Labor is embarking."

"I am presenting their bill and we will all see how they will react and what Labor will do. This is, after all, a bill which undermines what Labor itself promised its voters in its platform prior to the last elections," Landau said.

## Lebanese said hurt from IDF/SLA shelling

DAVID RUDGE

Reports from Lebanon said Hizbullah gunmen fired mortar shells, Sagger anti-tank missiles and machine gun fire at SLA posts in the Shomriya and Barasheet regions, in the zone's central sector.

There were no casualties among the SLA troops and both SLA and IDF gunners returned fire.

According to the reports, a number of shells hit the outskirts of Shakra village, north of the zone, wounding a local resident and damaging a house.

The Islamic Resistance, Hizbul-

lah's fighting arm, has escalated its operations against IDF and SLA targets in the zone in the past few weeks.

Hizbullah itself is scheduled to hold its fourth major conference in Beirut at the end of this month. The upcoming meeting of the leadership, with the participation of senior Iranian figures, is slated to decide the future course of the organization.

There has been speculation that one of the reasons for the escalated fighting in the zone of late is part of the militant wing's efforts to win support for its dogmatic and radical line at the forthcoming conference.

## 6 UN officers transferred for attending IDF exercises

TYRE (AP) - Six UN officers have been transferred after causing an uproar by attending IDF exercises in the security zone without permission, UN sources said yesterday.

Gen. Stanislaw Wozniak, commander of the 5,000-strong UN Interim Force in Lebanon, ordered the disciplinary action apparently to defuse the controversy after Hizbullah leaders and politicians denounced the officers' presence at the maneuvers as tantamount to recognition of Israel's occupation of the zone.

Officials with the UN peacekeeping force say that two officers from the Norwegian bat-

alion and four from another UN formation, Observer Group Lebanon, attended the exercises by Israeli and South Lebanon Army troops last Tuesday on their own initiative.

"As a result of their unauthorized attendance, the force commander took immediate action, transferring from the south those who were involved," one UN source said yesterday.

The sources declined to say whether the officers were sent home or to other UN missions.

The sources said the four observer force officers were from Denmark, Finland, Austria, and the Netherlands.

## American army receives new Israeli-US-made drone

ALON PINKAS

THE US Department of Defense late last week received the first production systems of the Hunter Joint Tactical Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), a joint production of Israel Aircraft Industries and the US firm TRW Avionics & Surveillance Group.

The advanced UAV is scheduled to be transferred to the US Army Intelligence Corps by April 30, and be used first by the 304th Military Intelligence Battalion, stationed at Ft. Huachuca, Arizona.

Additional systems required for full operational capability will be received next month and in September.

"This system now is ready to be turned to the troops in the field," said Col. Paul Tanguay, the US Army program manager.

The UAV is a small, autonomous aircraft that can be launched from a truck or a small boat and can fly for up to 10 hours.

It can be used for a variety of missions, including reconnaissance, target identification, and battlefield surveillance.

The UAV is a joint production of Israel Aircraft Industries and the US firm TRW Avionics & Surveillance Group.

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